

Case Study: Seeing Eye School

ExitPoint™



Frank Savino, president and CEO of United Fire Protection (UFP) in Brooklyn, N.Y., knew his long-time customer, The Seeing Eye, was an obvious candidate for directional sound technology.

Since 1929, The Seeing Eye has matched nearly 14,000 specially bred and trained Seeing Eye dogs with men and women who are blind, helping them achieve greater independence. Savino understood that the school's residents and staff would benefit tremendously from the ExitPoint™ "audible exit signs," which supplement existing visual exit markings.

The Seeing Eye's school and training grounds sit on 60 acres just outside of New York City. A residence hall with private rooms, a lounge and fitness center houses students who train with their new dogs onsite for almost a month. With facilities to train 120 dogs and a state-of-the-art veterinary medical facility containing additional kennels, the campus has a considerable population at all times. Many on site visitors are unfamiliar with the layout, which is another reason that ExitPoint was chosen to reduce egress times.

Bud Liptak, director of facilities at The Seeing Eye, says the school was looking to upgrade its life safety system. After learning about directional-sound technology, he was convinced of ExitPoint's effectiveness.

"Rich Fischer from NOTIFIER gave us a presentation, and everyone at the school was on board right from the start," Liptak says. "We are very excited to be pioneers in our field once again with this important life-safety upgrade at our facility.

"The system has been installed throughout the entire administration building and has received favorable reviews from students, teachers, the administration and local fire officials. Our students say the ExitPoint system is extremely intuitive."

Installed at building exits or along egress routes, ExitPoint directional sounders produce broadband noise, which guides building occupants using locatable sound. Because it's an auditory system, ExitPoint is ideal for helping visually impaired people, as well as sighted people whose vision is obscured by smoke, during a fire scenario.

Liptak continues, "Usually, when a class first enters the building, we hold an orientation with a quick fire drill to help students get their bearings in the building. We hold these practice drills about once a month when a new class of students arrives."

To meet the budgetary needs of the non-profit institution, NOTIFIER donated the new equipment to the school. UFP designed and installed the system at no charge. Both the design and installation phases went smoothly. UFP was able to integrate the product into the existing system, completing the installation in one week during the school's summer break.



Today's fire-alarm control panels are highly sophisticated systems. When activated, a fire-alarm system is capable of performing hundreds of preprogrammed action sequences within a fraction of a second. Although dependent on electrical capacity of the existing panel, ExitPoint directional sounders can be added into existing fire alarm systems with relative ease.

"Part of the beauty of the ExitPoint system is that it can be easily retrofitted to existing notification circuits," Savino explains. "This makes for fast installation. Also, the system draws an extremely low amount of power due to the absence of strobes and other visual components. In

most cases, it can be connected directly to existing notification circuits without any additional wiring. However, consideration for power and load needs should always be evaluated."

Effective emergency evacuations

The ExitPoint sounder provides the ideal solution for new and retrofitted fire alarm systems. As an audible exit sign, ExitPoint guides people to building exits — reliably, intuitively and safely. It can reduce evacuation times up to 75 percent, prevent injuries and help save lives.

For more information, visit www.systemsensor.com/ep.



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