Dual Strobes Simplify Installation of Mass Notification System

Case Study: Fiber Web

Fiber Web gets a massive upgrade from an outdated fire system to a combined fire/MNS system.

Fiber Web is a multi-national manufacturer of a wide range of nonwoven fabrics and products for hygiene and cleaning, medical, industrial and technical applications. Because its campus, located in Old Hickory, Tennessee, had been in service for many years, its fire alarm system was outdated and lacked a mass notification system (MNS). To make its campus a safer environment for its employees, the company took a proactive approach to updating its safety systems. The Northstar Alarm and Suppression Systems branch office in Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded the project to install and upgrade the entire campus with a fire and mass notification system.

With 12 buildings on the campus, including a production facility that remains open 24/7, Northstar installers had to work around...
Being able to rough in for one box and have it all together in one spot made things a lot easier. We didn’t have to pull as much wire. It was a time and cost savings.

— Kyle Way, Project Manager, Northstar Alarm and Suppression Systems

employees and the constant activity at the facility to install the massive system. They also had to keep the current fire alarm system working while they were replacing it with the new system. Because of these installation difficulties, Northstar had to find a way to keep the installation costs for the project at a minimum.

As a result, they installed a fiber optic NOTIFIER® mass notification system that featured System Sensor SpectrAlert® Advance Dual Strobe with Speaker Expander Plates along with SpectrAlert Advance speaker strobes.

“We used about 1,000 dual strobes and have a fire alarm speaker strobe mounted onto each plate, instead of installing one set of directions are easy to read. The hookups and connections are similar to other System Sensor products.”

The Dual Strobes and Dual Strobe with Speaker Expander Plates are designed for use on wall and ceiling applications. The expander plate provides fast and easy installation – first, mount the plate to a junction box and connect the field wiring to the terminals. Then, hinge and attach the strobe or speaker strobe device with a single captured mounting screw to complete the installation.

This is the first time the Northstar Alarm and Suppression Systems office in Nashville installed System Sensor dual strobes. “The dual strobes simplified the installation,” Way explains. “You only have to install at each position, one time. If we had 1,000 fire alarm devices and we had to go back and install 1,000 additional speakers for mass notification, like in a typical application, that gets into a lot of extra work and overtime.”

“Dual strobes are a profitable product. There is certainly a big cost and time savings from an installation stand point,” adds Jonathan Brooks, branch manager, Northstar Alarm and Suppression Systems. “We were two weeks ahead of schedule running in a full-time factory with very little overtime. That’s a big benefit by using these devices. If we can prove to our customers that we are reducing cost on installation, it will bring us more business.”