



PUTTING SAFETY IN OUR SYSTEMS!

A long time ago, a friend of mine told me he thought my job must basically consist of poking wires through walls. Actually, it can be as simple as that, and other times it gets a lot more complicated. We work with a lot of fire alarm systems, which are highly regulated by both codes and inspecting authorities, and consequently have to juggle sometimes conflicting requirements!

We recently were awarded the opportunity to design and provide a fire alarm system for an automotive assembly plant. One of the things fire alarms systems now do is to control elevators in the event of fire, and return the cars to a safe level. Part of this process involves providing heat detection near a sprinkler head in the elevator pit, and smoke detection at the top of the elevator shaft. Everything that is installed in a fire alarm system has to be routinely tested, and entering elevator shafts to test fire alarm devices is dangerous, and we always coordinate that with the elevator company to make sure nobody gets squished.

During the design of this fire alarm, we came up with a concept that allows us to monitor for heat in the elevator pit, and smoke in the elevator shaft, without having to enter the shaft for routine testing. For the elevator pit, we used a heat sensitive cable, called linear heat detection, which we routed from the first floor elevator machine room, into the pit near the sprinkler head, and back into the machine room terminating in a box with plenty of spare cable. This allows us to heat test the end of the cable without entering the shaft.

For the smoke detection at the top of the shaft, we used a small air sampling system, which is basically a box with a fan in it, and it draws air through PVC tubing and past a smoke detector. We placed the device in a room next to the elevator shaft on the top floor, and ran the piping into the elevator shaft, drilled one hole in the pipe, then ran the pipe

back into the room and put a second hole in the pipe. Now we can test the smoke detector by blowing smoke into the sampling port outside of the elevator shaft, and that verifies smoke can travel through the piping and activate the smoke detector!

It is a little bit more work to provide the air sampling housing, and a power supply to keep it working, but the safety features for both the building owner and technician assigned to do the testing are substantial!

WE ARE HIRING!

I know – isn't everybody? We aren't requiring a college degree, we are just looking for an individual who would like to learn a trade, and earn while they learn! We participate in a federally approved apprenticeship program, and learning to work with tools and solve practical problems is always useful! Please contact Pat Brown at (800) 283-3659 if interested!

“QUARTERLY QUOTATION”

“Life is like an elevator, on your way up you sometimes have to stop and let somebody off.”

PHONE LINE CHANGES/CANCELS

Please check with us before cancelling or changing your telephone service. If your alarm system has not been converted to another means of communication, changes to your phone service could prevent your system from communicating properly!

ACTIVITY STATS

Our central station alarm activity for July, August and September is as follows:

- **Burglaries:**
 - Commercial/School..... 4
 - Residential..... 3
 - Financial 1
- **Holdups:**
 - Commercial..... 1
 - Financial Institution..... 0
- **Fires:**
 - Commercial..... 2
 - Residential..... 0
- **Individuals apprehended..... 2**

COMPANY DIRECTORY:

We sincerely appreciate each of our customers who have entrusted us with their business. While we have implemented a voice mail option on our phone system, a friendly person is always available to take your call. All of our staff can be reached through our toll free number, **(800) 283-3659**. Our fax number is (517) 782-5670. If you prefer to contact one of us directly, we've provided our company directory.

Administration:

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Customer Service and Sales:

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