

# Upscale Fire Protection for Exclusive Senior Living Community

Paradise Village, located near the San Diego harbor, is a senior living facility which is really more like an all-inclusive resort, offering its elderly and assisted living residents an elaborate assortment of convenient amenities. Planned and built by Generations, Inc., Paradise Village is uncompromising in regard to the safety and comfort of its residents.

Sprawled across 12 acres, the Paradise Village complex is comprised of four resident buildings, one assisted-living facility and one massive plaza encompassing multiple amenities, including restaurants; a theatre; fitness center; conference rooms; indoor, Olympic-size pool; credit union; chapel; and more. All buildings are connected by sky bridges, and construction for two more buildings is already planned for the near future.

The safety objective of Generations, Inc. and Norm Smith, Executive Director of Paradise Village, was to install a fire alarm and evacuation system that offered state-of-the-art protection, yet was flexible enough to comply with any future code changes or property expansion with minimal financial outlay.

For this reason, management chose a fire alarm system manufactured by a major corporation with a proven track record to ensure product availability and technical support. Evans found the IFP-2000 system manufactured by Silent Knight, part of the Honeywell Fire Systems family, offered all the features required by code as well as the specialized capabilities he had written into the specification.

There is more to a large fire alarm installation than mere procurement of equipment. To be effective, fire alarm systems require the proper lay-out and equipment to assure their operation meets the requirements of local codes and the facility's specific needs. Equally important is the supervision of the system's installation, programming and sequence of operations. After acceptance and commissioning of the system, periodic tests and inspections must be performed by certified personnel in accordance with codes

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*– Norm Smith, Executive Director of Paradise Village*

and regulations. For these reasons, the services of a local Engineered Systems Distributor (ESD) having factory-certified technicians is essential.

Cavalry Systems, Inc., a Silent Knight Farenhyt ESD in nearby Poway, California, proved to possess the engineering expertise, necessary licensing and certification, together with a high-level of service capability to meet these requirements. With a retirement and assisted living community, rapid response to service issues is imperative.

## Rapid Detection, Rapid Response

John Goodbody of Cavalry Systems utilized a Silent Knight IFP-2000 addressable fire alarm control panel as the core of the complex's fire protection system, networking it with four RPS-2000 control panels and six RPS-1000 intelligent power supplies placed throughout the various buildings. The result was a single, high-powered network monitoring nearly 1,500 sensory devices,



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94 initiating devices, 41 sprinkler valve connections, 37 water flow switches and a number of assorted auxiliary devices.

Paradise Village has a substantial percentage of residents who would require assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation. Therefore, it is imperative that the facility's trained personnel and the municipality's first responders receive immediate notification of emergencies.

Electing to surpass common code requirements, Evans approved two remote annunciators to be installed within the entrance guard shack and the 24-hour nurse station. Both annunciators provide staff critical system information including the exact location and source of an alarm. While speeding the emergency response of on-site personnel, the guard shack annunciator at the main entrance can guide first responders to the appropriate location(s) quickly.

Code typically requires residential facilities to have smoke detectors with integral alarm sounders installed in each apartment. These detectors are usually stand-alone devices, not connected to the building alarm system. Code allows the detectors to annunciate within the facility, but does not allow fire department dispatch without specific fire marshal approval.

At the recommendation of the fire marshal, Battalion Chief Robert Hernandez of the National City Fire Department, Generations Inc. and Evans decided to exceed code requirements with the installation of system-connected smoke detectors with built-in audio sounders in each apart-

ment in-place of the stand-alone smoke alarm arrangement. If any smoke detector goes into alarm, it will activate integral sounders within the apartment and send an alarm through to the main system - an event that takes place in less than 10 seconds. In addition to notifying the National City Fire Dept., the fire alarm system is programmed to alert Paradise Village personnel via two-way radios.

To prevent the spread of smoke from a fire, Cavalry Systems installed smoke sensors within air ducts to control the shut down of air handling equipment. This is a necessity since all Paradise Village buildings are connected via sky bridges - a potential conduit for smoke.

### Networking Benefits

Tests performed by Cavalry Systems prior to installation revealed a substantial amount of noise that could potentially interfere with the network's operation if traditional copper wire was used. As a result, fiber optic cable was chosen for its greater immunity to noise. Fiber optic cable is also known to be more impervious to lightning and induced voltages.

The ability to tie each building's fire alarm system to one network was one of Evans' primary demands. Such a network

allows the main IFP-2000 control panel and both remote annunciators to report alarms, trouble alerts and other events from anywhere on campus.

The flexibility of the Silent Knight system network provided an advantage for handling future expansion plans and any system reconfigurations that may arise due to renovations or code changes. The network also provides Cavalry Systems a secure means for remote monitoring and control. This convenience will help Cavalry's technicians to quickly troubleshoot any issues and respond appropriately, which greatly reduces the cost of lengthy onsite servicing.

The fire protection system is a cornerstone of security in a retirement community. Examples such as Paradise Village highlight the critical role fast detection and response, and ease of monitoring play in keeping retirement and assisted living residents safe. Moreover, the Silent Knight system's reputation of performance and flexibility can only help to strengthen the reliability and life span of such an important investment.



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