

# Protecting those who protect us.

Polk County Courthouse

**F**ounded in 1874, Polk County sits in the heart of Willamette Valley within the scenic coastal city of Dallas, Oregon. An epicenter for equality and justice, the Polk County Courthouse desperately needed a fire alarm and fire sprinkler system overhaul to ensure the safety of their property and people.

The existing four story building built in 1899 received a three story annex addition in 1964 and the Polk County Jail Building in 1999. The 69,000 square foot property houses approximately 175 employees. With a growing facility and a rapidly increasing employee base, the zone monitoring associated with the courthouse's conventional fire alarm system proved outdated and insufficient. This warranted the installation of an analog addressable system. The reliability, pinpoint accuracy, and 24/7 on-site monitoring of an addressable system provided greater awareness and system functionality.

## Implementation

With a dated, conventional system, AllSafe Fire and Security, the contractor for the project, had their work cut out for them. Complicating the fire alarm system

design, the remodeling also included five preaction fire sprinkler systems in critical areas. A central computer server room and a file storage room containing indispensable court documents were part of the preaction fire sprinkler system additions. Potter's P400R Analog Addressable Releasing Panel and the PSN-1000(E) Power Expander were used as a viable, cost-effective solution. The Potter panel and addressable devices easily managed the inclusion of the new preaction systems. While many fire alarm control panels can only handle one preaction system, the Potter P400R can handle multiple preaction systems at once. This unique capability allowed the five preaction systems to all be linked to the single P400R, thus saving money from having to purchase multiple panels and subsequently linking them together.

The existing system contained two separate fire alarm control panels—one panel for regular system functionality and the second for releasing capabilities. This caused problems as both panels did not always communicate well. Increased initial costs and maintenance upkeep along with additional time and labor to ensure proper system integrity were required with the existing two panel system. The single

## Product Highlights



### **P400R**

Analog addressable fire alarm control panel with 127 points expandable to 2,032.



### **PSN-1000E**

10A intelligent power supply with expandable cabinet.

Potter P400R solved these problems with its ability to serve as both an addressable fire alarm control panel and releasing panel. AllSafe Fire and Security reduced installation time and costs considerably by programming one panel instead of synchronizing two. Additionally, Potter's exclusive Quadrasync multi-strobe circuit synchronization technology alleviated many system wide concerns, allowing for a smooth, simple installation.

The overall process was seamless as the PSN-1000E Power Expanders provided power to notification appliances, auxiliary power, and releasing circuits for preaction



solenoids. Potter's non-proprietary products integrated perfectly with the existing framework due to their Quadrasynch technology.

**...the easiest install I have done in over twenty-five years!**

John Ripplinger, the head technician from AllSafe Fire and Security, quickly identified all addressable devices using the PFC Series LEARN function and the included drag and drop programming software. With a maximum point capacity of 2,032, the P400R easily accommodated the 220 addressable devices with the Polk County installation.

Last minute changes in preparation for the AHJ inspection sparked an entire system reprogramming. "It took our tech, John Ripplinger, fifteen minutes to rewrite everything when it would normally take more than four hours with other fire alarm systems," said Mike Beecher, Manager of AllSafe Fire and Security. The new system exceeded the AHJ's inspection requirements leaving everyone satisfied with the end result. "Installing these Potter products was the easiest install I have done in over twenty-five years," Beecher said.

### Daily Operation

Today, Polk County Courthouse employees enjoy an increased sense of security and awareness with a Potter fire alarm system. The network of addressable devices connected to the P400R fire panel monitors every inch of the premises and provides instant notification of emergency situations. "The P400R sends me nightly e-mail updates of the current status of our system that I can disseminate to key personnel and first responders. Also, it texts alarm and trouble conditions straight to my smartphone, keeping me up-to-date on everything I need to know. If Polk County's needs change, system alerts can also be sent via e-mail. The P400R can also be programmed to send reminder messages

**...it texts alarm and trouble conditions straight to my smartphone...**

such as when annual tests or inspections are due," said Matt Hawkins, Polk County Courthouse Administrative Services Director. The P400R's ability to communicate to a central monitoring station using an IP/Internet connection not only eliminates the need for dedicated phone lines, but also provides a faster and more secure means

of transmitting crucial system information to responding personnel.

In addition to peace of mind, the new Potter P400R analog addressable fire alarm system saved the Polk County Courthouse time and money while providing them with more control over the maintenance and operation of their system. "With the independence of a Potter system, we no longer require remote monitoring services and are able to perform our own strobe testing," Hawkins said. The enhanced functionality of a Potter system provided Courthouse employees with a more self-sufficient method of life safety protection. The installation of a Potter fire alarm system ensured the continued protection of Polk County's property and people.

### AllSafe Fire and Security

Formed in January of 2009 in the Pacific Northwest, AllSafe Fire & Security established itself as the premier contractor for providing low voltage solutions to the region. Their corporate vision focuses on providing craftsmanship installation of quality equipment paired with personalized customer service to accurately fulfill your needs. Founded on the principles of honesty and hard work, AllSafe Fire and Security strives to exceed the expectations of every customer.

### Potter Electric Signal Company, LLC

As an independent company with a focus on tailored customer service, Potter earns its customer's business with superior innovation and continued dedication to life safety. Designing and manufacturing the best life safety products on the market to protect lives and property drives our corporate vision. We possess the confidence and competence to consistently exceed your needs for every project, every time.