



EDWARDS

Case Study: Senior Living

NEW, ADVANCED FIRE DETECTION

The life safety industry is in the midst of one of the biggest changes in its history due to new UL standards governing smoke detectors. Published in 2016, UL 268—Standard for Smoke Detector Systems, 7th edition, as well as UL 217—Standard for Smoke Alarms, 8th edition, will take fire detection to advanced levels that will result in faster detection with fewer nuisance alarms, designed to help save more lives. The significant revisions to UL 268 incorporate three new test methods, including a new cooking nuisance alarm test and two polyurethane foam tests for smoldering and flaming fires. All UL-certified smoke detectors are required to meet the enhanced requirements by June 30, 2022.



EDWARDS SIGNATURE OPTICA™ DETECTOR



UNITED SYSTEMS®
FIRE & SECURITY

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LEADING THE WAY

In September 2018, Edwards became the first multi-criteria smoke detector manufacturer to receive certification to the UL standard for Fire Alarm Systems UL 268, 7th edition. The new Signature Optica smoke detectors are able to distinguish between different types of fires, enhancing the protection of people and property, while reducing the number of false alarms that cause business interruption and unnecessary responses by fire departments.

RELATED CASE STUDY

SITUATION

A luxury senior living complex in Southern California was experiencing daily nuisance fire alarms that were an on-going disruption and concern. The 6-story facility, constructed in 2016, consists of over 150 independent living housing units along with assisted living and memory care services. Five hundred of the Edwards older model Signature Series SIGA2-PS photoelectric smoke detectors were installed on the first and second floors during construction as part of an Edwards EST3 life safety system including low frequency notification for the residential units.

HCI Systems, Inc., an Edwards Elite Strategic Partner, with offices throughout California, completed the initial install and as part of their continued service helped the facility find a potential solution to their frequent nuisance alarms – Edwards new Signature Optica detectors.

ANALYSIS

Nuisance fire alarms, most often due to cooking, smoking and shower steam were a daily occurrence. While a problem for any facility, in a senior living environment these alarms can create significant confusion and disruption both to the residents and staff. Adding to the challenge was that the local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) would not allow the devices on the 1st and 2nd floor be treated as Supervisory or changed to Heat Detectors.

SOLUTION

In an effort to reduce the rate, frequency and number of nuisance or false alarms, the facility contracted with HCI in 2020 to install 500 Edwards Signature SIGA-OSD Optica smoke detectors on the 1st and 2nd floors. According to Hany Dimitry, president of HCI, the replacement was straightforward given the backward compatible design: “Our team was easily able to remove the existing SIGA2-PS detectors from their standard or sounder base and replace with the SIGA-OSD detectors.” The installation was not disruptive to the tenants and no system hardware or programming changes were required in the implementation.

RESULTS

Per HCI, results to date have exceeded expectations, reducing the number of nuisance alarms significantly.

“The site went from several nuisance alarms a week to just 3 in the last 13 months after the installation of the new devices.”

HCI Vice President

Smart detection designed to recognize conditions and alarm faster with greater accuracy than ever before, Signature Optica Smoke Detectors from Edwards.



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