

CASE STUDY



St. Peter's Hospital

Albany, NY

ABOUT St. Peter's Hospital was founded in 1869 and has grown steadily to serve nearly 4,000 people every day, with comprehensive medical services, free educational programs, and a host of community health screenings. In 2005, the hospital launched comprehensive capital improvements, which would include the addition of a six-story Patient Care Pavilion with 24 operating rooms (ORs), modernized patient care units, a food court, a new endoscopy suite and a pharmacy. The new hospital facilities were unveiled in 2011.

CHALLENGE To assure the safety of patients and staff, the existing older generation NOTIFIER fire system needed a comprehensive overhaul and expansion into new structures. More modern and technologically advanced components had to network across a 600,000 square foot, multi-building hospital campus. It was critical that valuable existing data and functionality not be lost, while also mitigating installation time and cost of implementation.

SOLUTION A fire safety system from NOTIFIER was chosen for its advanced functionalities and ability to upgrade seamlessly from older technologies. Networkable ONYX® Series NFS2-3030 panels replaced existing NFS2-2020 panels, and a comprehensive Digital Voice Command (DVC) system was implemented for campus-wide, customized notification. This NOTIFIER solution provided:

- › Upgraded and expanded fire safety system across existing and new structures
- › Ability to seamlessly convert from older to newer fire panels without data loss
- › Customizable voice commands for targeted actions across all structures
- › Ideal solution for complex, multi-structure campuses, scalable for future expansions
- › Minimal disruption of existing hospital services during transition
- › Superior service from best-in-class local distributors



I thought we had it good with the 2020 system. However, the features and the additional equipment that was installed by Alarm & Suppression have greatly improved this facility's fire alarm layout, expandability and coverage to the point of near perfection.

Dan Machabee, Electrical Supervisor,
St. Peter's Hospital



Easy Conversion through NOTIFIER NFS2-3030 Panels

St. Peter's contracted Brad Nelson of Alarm & Suppression, a NOTIFIER authorized Engineered Systems Distributor (ESD) headquartered in Ballston Lake, NY, to bring the facilities up to standard.

Alarm & Suppression replaced existing NOTIFIER ONYX® Series NFS2-2020 fire alarm panels with the more advanced NFS2-3030 series. The panels tied seamlessly into current detection and notification devices, one key advantage of the ONYX system. Additional NFS2-3030 panels were then installed in the new-build structures – the Pavilion, patient care suites and the food court.

The NFS2-3030 is an intelligent fire alarm control panel designed for medium-to large-scale facilities such as St. Peter's Hospital that require early detection and evacuation. NFS2-3030's large 640-character Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) presents vital information to hospital personnel concerning a fire situation, fire progression, and evacuation details throughout the main hospital, outlying buildings and Patient Care Pavilion. Using conversion software, Alarm & Suppression Inc. was able to draw preprogrammed data from the older NFS2-2020 panels, convert it,

and reprogram it into the newer 3030 panels for a seamless and highly time efficient transition.

"This is a huge time saver. With the NOTIFIER conversion software, we can display a report of device type codes that have changed, and re-program them accordingly," explains Brad Nelson, Project Engineer for Alarm & Suppression Inc.

Digital Voice Commands Expedite Emergency Response Time

New Digital Voice Command (DVC) systems were added to each building. DVCs are full-featured audio command centers that provide voice evacuation for Emergency Communications and Mass Notification applications. The ability to play 8 simultaneous messages in different locations and network multiple DVCs across a complex campus enables the system to deliver the right message to the right people at the right time. This expedites proper evacuation at critical locations and reduces the potential for mass confusion.

St. Peter's Hospital programmed 180 voice messages within the hospital's new Patient Care Pavilion. This facilitates better audio clarity and supports quicker implementation of emergency actions by hospital personnel and first responders.

Minimized Downtime and Costs

Utilizing NOTIFIER's ability to upgrade seamlessly from older technologies, NOTIFIER's highly trained ESD installed and activated the new fire alarm system without having to take it off-line for reprogramming. Such a seamless transition saved considerable labor, cost and business downtime.

"We've worked on other long-term projects with NOTIFIER equipment, and upgrading to newer, more advanced technologies has not been a problem," says Nelson. "This line is engineered to handle a smooth transition from old to new, which ensures a long life for the owner's investment."

"I thought we had it good with the 2020 system," claims St. Peter's Electrical Supervisor, Dan Machabee. "However, the features and the additional equipment that was installed by Alarm & Suppression have greatly improved this facility's fire alarm layout, expandability and coverage to the point of near perfection."

NOTIFIER

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