A FLEXIBLE ON-CAMPUS SOLUTION
Honeywell Gamewell-FCI E3 Series®

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is the largest university in the United States, educating 64,000 students. Three newly constructed dormitories housing a total of 665 beds opened at the start of the fall semester in 2013, and a fourth new building is used for administration and maintenance.

The Needs
- Flexible fire alarm architecture designed to grow with a continually expanding campus
- Dependable and self-testing system to ensure reliability and survivability
- Integrated fire/smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in each room to reduce installation and maintenance costs
- Voice communication alarm systems as opposed to traditional horns or bells
- Meet smoke alarm codes for multi-story buildings

The Solution
Each building has its own standalone fire alarm system, monitored by the UCF campus police department. Each building is protected by its own Honeywell Gamewell-FCI E3 Series® fire alarm and integrated voice notification system.

For added protection beyond smoke and fire, UCF equipped all dormitory sleeping rooms with detectors designed to sense both fire and carbon monoxide. HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) control is also integrated into the solution and will automatically shut down a building’s air handling equipment to stop the spread of smoke while activating strobes and voice announcements in the event of a fire.
Life safety best practices

“The University strives to stay up to date with life safety standards and best practices, and standardize as much of its emergency management systems as possible,” says Richard Berwanger, UCF’s Senior Maintenance Superintendent.

This construction project continued UCF’s adoption of the Honeywell Gamewell-FCI E3 Series® fire alarm and voice evacuation platform. Gamewell-FCI technology is already used in 15 other dormitories, and additional buildings are being transitioned over time. “The University favors this particular system because of its fast reporting time and ease of use,” said Richie O’Rourke, President, Florida Fire & Sound, which maintains fire alarm systems on-campus.

Another advantage of standardizing on one technology is easier availability of parts, simplifying system maintenance and management.

Reliability and survivability are key features built into all E3 Series® systems to ensure continuous operation, even when components have suffered damage due to fire or tampering.

Combined detection

Code requires a fire/smoke detector in each dormitory room. UCF standards, and local/national fire codes, also require CO detectors in the sleeping areas of any building that burns fossil fuels (the new dormitories have natural gas-burning water heaters).

Installed within each dormitory sleeping room is a 4-Warn/CO detector from System Sensor. Choosing the combination units saved money on installation and maintenance, compared to using separate fire and CO detectors with additional wire and modules.

Integrated mass notification

With integrated mass notification, the right message reaches the right people at exactly the right time. The E3 fire alarm systems use voice communication in lieu of traditional horns or bells. Pre-recorded audio messages notify the occupants and direct them to the nearest exits.

“The residents prefer the voice system to the alternative of high-decibel alarm horns,” adds Richard.

The microphone on each E3 Series control panel also enables authorized personnel to broadcast voice messages in real time.