

CAMPUS TRANSITION THAT OUTPERFORMS

| Cal Poly Pomona Officials Replace All Fire Alarm Panels with Gamewell-FCI

Case Study

**ERIC FIORINO,
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"Campuses rarely choose to take all existing panels out and replace them. This was a really unusual situation, and a very interesting conversion. We removed all 16 existing fire alarm panel brands and networked the campus into a 100% Gamewell-FCI full coverage fire safety system."

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OVERVIEW

Located 30 miles east of Los Angeles, Cal Poly Pomona spans nearly 1,500 acres. It comprises eight colleges, 52 buildings and hosts approximately 26,500 students and staff. In 2019, the college underwent a massive fire alarm system replacement project.

The buildings on campus originally had 16 different brands of fire alarm panels with various levels of reliability and maintenance requirements.

Over time, school officials learned that their one existing Gamewell-FCI fire alarm panel was outperforming the others in terms of consistency and maintenance. It was an easy decision for Cal Poly Pomona to replace and upgrade their entire fire safety system with solely Honeywell Gamewell-FCI fire alarm panels. Cal Poly Pomona chose to onboard AJ Kirkwood & Associates out of Tustin, CA to upgrade their fire alarm system. AJ Kirkwood is a Certified Systems Engineer (ESD) and Elite Partner for Honeywell Gamewell-FCI.

CHALLENGE

The key challenges were the sheer size of the campus, as well as the need to keep the University's fire safety system active during the upgrade since school was in session. It would require coordinating with building staff to utilize parallel panels so AJ Kirkwood could bring down the old fire alarm system and onboard the new system without coverage lapses. In addition, different colleges within the University had unique structural, architectural, and historic elements that would make panel installation and networking challenging. And finally, a monitoring system had to be devised to accommodate testing and maintenance of the elaborate fire system network.

SOLUTION

AJ Kirkwood chose the Gamewell-FCI E3 Series® and S3 Series® for all 52 of Cal Poly Pomona's buildings. The E3 Series is a flexible system that offers a robust Life Safety programming platform with a lower cost of long-term ownership. It is the only panel on the market with a 2 wire solution for all Voice applications, thus reducing the amount of wire and possible ground faults. It has a simple building block approach for greatest overall build flexibility, with the least amount of parts. The S3 Series panels are suited for small to mid-size buildings, and is the most budget friendly and simple to install.



QUICK FACTS

Needs

- Must create comprehensive, networked campus-wide Gamewell-FCI fire safety system
- Must address structural and architectural challenges
- Must provide easy monitoring, testing and maintenance
- Must provide continuous coverage throughout year-long phasing

Benefits

- A fully networked Gamewell-FCI fire safety system with full code compliance
- System can be remote monitored, tested, and maintained with maximum efficiency
- Comprehensive performance data per device
- Students and staff were protected during phased construction
- Fire safety system can grow and adjust for future expansions

The 3-building culinary school, Collins College, was networked together with E3 series panels after AJ Kirkwood trenched new lines to create one working fire alarm system. The Kellogg Art Gallery, housing over \$5 million dollars of donated art, and the Engineering Lab both received S3 Series panels that required minimal disruption of the exhibits or laboratories. The Science Building had 137 duct detectors replaced and networked into the building's smoke control system. In the Green House, AJ Kirkwood was able to achieve full coverage despite the dense plants that had grown up to the ceiling. The historic Kellogg House, which did not have any prior coverage, received a fully code-compliant E3 Series fire safety system without compromising the integrity of the actual historic structure. In total, 37 fire alarm panels with over 600 smoke and heat detectors, 100 pull stations, 1000+ strobes and 32 power supplies were integrated and networked throughout the University.

"Campuses rarely choose to take all existing panels out and replace them. This was a really unusual situation, and a very interesting conversion," states Eric Fiorino, Vice President of AJ Kirkwood & Associates. "We removed all 16 existing fire alarm panel brands and networked the campus into a 100% Gamewell-FCI full coverage fire safety system," he continues.



With the foresight of being able to monitor, test and maintain a fire safety installation of this size, AJ Kirkwood integrated Honeywell's eVance™ Services software that automates and streamlines inspection and service management operations. Detectors, panels and annunciators are outfitted with barcodes, which when scanned, download comprehensive real-time device data. It also allows for enhanced testing, remote monitoring, and a much more efficient inspection process. Through the excellent and outstanding performance, Cal Poly Pomona ultimately awarded AJ Kirkwood with extended inspection and maintenance contracts. A seamless transition to the Honeywell Connected Life Safety Services (CLSS) has been scheduled.

To implement this expansive project with a tight timeline and accommodate the school schedules, AJ Kirkwood teams worked around the clock, including nights and weekends. Asbestos remediation and other campus renovations were ongoing in parallel and required tight coordination. The project was completed in less than a year.

"From a coordination schedule, this was a tough project, however the Cal Poly project management team was fantastic to work with," remarks Eric Fiorino. "The client was extremely happy to have a 100% code compliant Gamewell-FCI fire safety system in place. Student and staff safety were their core focus," he concludes.

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