Multi-Purpose Notification and Communications System Protects Workers against Hazardous Gas Leaks

When UTC Aerospace in Tullahoma, Tennessee wanted to upgrade its protection against dangerous gases, it turned to Metis Secure. UTC already relied on the multi-purpose Metis Secure system for overall plant emergency notification and two-way emergency communications. When the company acquired gas detectors to protect its people and site from hazardous leaks, it decided to leverage its flexible, highly effective Metis Secure Emergency Notification and Communications System.

Typical gas detectors are single-purpose devices that set off sirens, horns, and/or strobe lights in the immediate location of the event, if the volume of hazardous gas in the air rises to a certain level.

For UTC, this type of localized notification posed an unacceptable risk to the people working at the 250,000 square foot facility, who manufacture landing gear and other systems for the world's top aircraft and defense companies. The company needed a way to alert everyone in the plant— including those working in remote areas—and make sure they quickly evacuated in a gas leak emergency. UTC also saw significant advantages in leveraging proven, multi-use systems, rather than installing a separate, narrow-purpose device.

Automated Safety Solution

UTC's solution was to tie their gas detection sensors into the Metis Secure emergency communications and notification system—and have the system automatically alert and evacuate everyone in the plant if the sensor detects a gas emergency.

If the gas sensor detects that gas in the air has crossed a predetermined threshold:

- Metis Secure Emergency Help Stations alert everyone in the facility and direct them to designated evacuation points, using a combination of sirens, strobes, clear prerecorded voice instruction, and on-screen text instruction. Multiple alerting modes help ensure that everyone is notified, even in a noisy manufacturing environment where people are wearing hearing protection.
- The Metis Secure system also ties into the plant's public address system, to further extend the alerts.
- Although the system is set up to alarm automatically, security and safety personnel have the option to cancel alerts with a few clicks from Metis Secure's easy-to-use, map-based software.

Beyond Gas Detection: Securing the Plant

In cases of extreme weather or other emergencies, emergency and plant managers can also manually send alerts and instructions to targeted areas or to the entire plant simultaneously, with a few mouse clicks. In addition, a person in need can press the help button on any of the two-way Metis Secure Help Stations installed throughout the facility to reach security and alert the plant's medical team. And, plant personnel use the software to monitor the real-time operational status of the Metis Secure Emergency Help Stations.

- System operators can send emergency alerts to specific areas or the entire facility in two mouse clicks.
- System operators answer emergency calls for help with a click of the mouse—the caller's precise location automatically appears on the map and in the system log. System operators can also see the real-time operational statuses of connected systems on the map.
- The system is configured with alerts that notify plant medical teams to report to a specific area of the plant if help is needed.

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