Remote Monitoring During New Facility Construction

One FireConnect installation in rural West Virginia has really shown the versatility of the solution, as the end user has benefited greatly from many of the different features.

The site of the end user is currently under construction and there was a chance that they could lose their construction license if they did not have an alarm/monitoring system in place. This would cause massive delays in the construction process while they sourced and then installed this system. FireConnect was already planned to be installed in the fire pump room as a core aspect of their smart firefighting system. The end user petitioned the local authorities to accept FireConnect as the alarm/monitoring system until the main BMS system was up and running. Once the local authority saw the notification and monitoring capability of FireConnect it was quickly accepted. This allowed the end user to continue construction with no delay to their schedule.

One of the main reasons for the acceptance of FireConnect was the notifications feature, where alarm events are sent via Email or SMS text. One night this notifications feature saved the end user from potentially thousands of dollars in repairs. The fire site leader received a text that the low pump room temperature alarm had been activated. The temperature in the region had recently been very cold with heavy winds. This combination of high winds and low temperature could freeze a pump room very fast if not dealt with. Technicians were immediately dispatched to the site with all the proper equipment to handle this type of call and upon arrival they visually confirmed the reason for the alarm. The high winds blew one of louvres open and it was allowing the subzero temperatures into the building. After a quick repair the room was up and running with no damage to pipes or systems due to the low temperatures, saving money and down time because they could respond quickly and specifically to the alarm.

Busted pipes and leaks are an inevitability during job site construction. Some leaks are large, which eventually trigger the main fire pump to start. Other times smaller leaks are not big enough to trigger the main fire pump but are significant enough to cause excess damage and cost. A large leak will typically be found quickly due to visual identification, but smaller ones are harder to identify. Using FireConnect the end user could see the abnormal operation of jockey pump starts and stops realizing they had a significant leak in the system. Typically locating an underground leak takes time and labor in most cases. However, utilizing the 24/7 real time monitoring capability of FireConnect they were able to locate the leak quickly and efficiently, resulting in less system down time and efficient utilization of labor.

Water sustainability goals achieved by bringing attention to fire protection system leaks

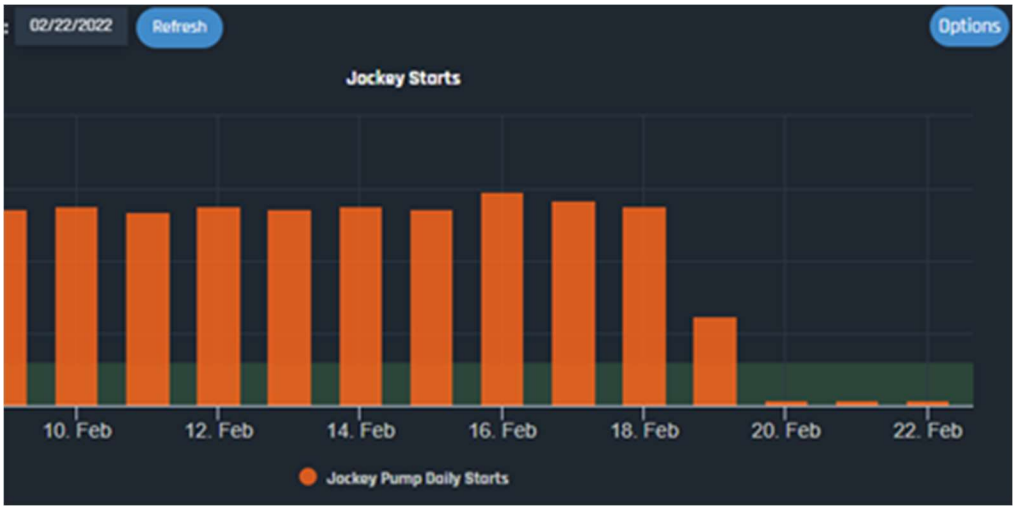
When it comes to life safety equipment, sustainability and efficiency are rarely considered to be overly important features. When you're dealing with fire protection systems pressurized by fire pumps, the question "will the system work when we absolutely need it" tends to be what matters most. Everything beyond that is considered ancillary, and often forgotten.

While it may not be top of mind when it comes to fire protection systems, water sustainability and energy efficiency can be achieved with relatively little effort, especially on older installations. Even though fire protection systems have historically been ignored for sustainability, many Facility Managers and Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Managers still have sustainability goals that they are working to achieve in an effort to make their facilities more 'green'. FireConnect has proven that it can help facilities all over the world save millions of gallons of water, using the power of distance monitoring and data analysis.

A business innovation campus in Ohio has been monitoring their fire pump system with Peerless FireConnect for over one year now. In addition to the market leading data and information FireConnect is providing with regard to the fire pump system, FireConnect showed that their leaky pipes and valves were the root cause for losing 1000's of gallons of water per day, causing a significant environmental challenge for the otherwise very 'green' facility.

FireConnect brought attention to the site that their jockey pump was running over 70 times per day, for an average of 2.5 minutes, meaning they had a significant leak in their piping. Historically jockey pumps are rarely, often never, monitored. Visibility into total time flowing water is hardly reviewed, but with the FireConnect dashboard bringing this data front and center, it became clear the system had an issue and caused the facility to act. The result was a discovery of a very large pipe leak which has since been corrected.

Thanks to FireConnect this facility will save an incredible 1.1 million gallons of water, per year, and has cut their jockey pump starts from 70 times per day to just 2, saving a significant amount of electrical energy as well.



The local facility took their daily jockey pump starts from 70 per day to 2, saving roughly 3000 gallons of water day.