

SOUND SOLUTIONS CASE STUDY

UW Foundation

CHALLENGE:

Dangerous weather was rampant across the United States in 2011 and it was no different in Madison, WI where the fall brought a series of tornados and lightning storms. The University of Wisconsin Foundation recognized a need to improve the speed of communication to their employees in the event that they would need to direct them to safety. The UW Foundation facility management team, consisting of Caty Ahrens – Operations Manager and B.J. Bethke – Facilities Manager, contacted their long-standing furniture dealer Greg Knapp of Paragon Business Furniture Group. Knapp immediately recommended engaging Lencore to discuss emergency paging solutions.

The UW Foundation facility is a signature building on the university campus. The space required 100% paging coverage and had a unique floor plan. Lencore was brought in to assess the four floors and over 46,000 square feet of space which housed its 160 employees.

SOLUTION:

The client chose Lencore's Spectra i.Net® for their emergency paging solution. The system incorporated a Record, Audio, Mpeg Player (RAMP) with three pre-recorded messages for non-fire, evacuate and severe weather alert. Pre-recorded, or "canned", messages are recommended in this type of solution in order to reduce the impact of human error and deliver a clear and consistent message. The



Lencore's mass notification solutions provide the coverage, reach and clarity needed to ensure quality communications during emergency events.

Lencore solution further required integration and testing with the UW Foundation existing infrastructure. "It truly met our needs. It really got the attention of the employees when we tested it with them and the messaging was clear," stated Bethke.

RESULT:

The result is a facility with complete emergency communications coverage. Ahrens complimented the system, "We are very, very happy with the outcome. The Foundation wanted to improve our speed of communication and focus on the safety of the employees and the Lencore solution delivered."

Emergency communications systems are evolving toward mass notification solutions to now incorporate a myriad of

THE GROWING NEED FOR MNEC SYSTEMS

More and more companies are not comfortable relying solely on the building landlord's system as the only means of communication for emergency events and mass notification. In fact, a general cultural shift in our perception and expectations for access to information has created a greater responsibility and obligation for companies to inform occupants during emergencies such as:

- Catastrophic events
- Weather pattern emergencies
- Hurricanes / Tornados
- Tsunami / Earthquakes / Fires
- Acts of Terrorism
- Chemical Spills
- Bio Hazards

components and products. Lencore understands that each project is unique but ultimately has the same goal: employee safety.



About MNEC & NFPA72

Day to day, building codes exist to keep us safe and to ensure good communication practices. In considering mass notification emergency communication systems (MNEC), the intersection of building codes with fire detection and AV equipment is a new way of ensuring safety. Initially, fire alarm notifications were limited to bells, horns and other telegraphed messages, but today, MNEC systems also use other forms of visible notification devices and commercial loudspeakers in fire-alarm systems.

Recent revisions to NFPA72 (The National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code) have put a new emphasis on the design, installation, and performance characteristics of audio and video components and systems. Among the changes, code-compliant commercial / professional-grade audio systems and video displays are now recognized as legitimate components of emergency communication systems (ECS).