



INNOVATORS OF FIRE TECHNOLOGY

FIRE SAFETY

Schools and Educational
buildings

WIRE-FREE GUIDE

A large school fire can devastate and disrupt a child's education. Although precautions can be taken to prevent a school fire, no building is immune from the risks. If the worst does happen, it is important to ensure your school has the correct fire safety equipment to reduce the risk of fire, smoke and toxic fumes spreading, risking lives during evacuation.



THE REAL COST OF A FIRE

- The average financial cost of a school fire could be up to £2.8m according to the Fire Protection Association
- Disrupts children's education and exams
- Causes stress and devastation to children and staff
- Historical buildings may be destroyed
- Time and resources of emergency services



FIRE FACTS

- 7,000 fires in educational premises in the last decade in the UK (13 per week)
- On average, 2.5 school fires a week are started deliberately
- Fires in London schools have increased by a third in just one year according to the London Fire Brigade

DEVASTATION

3 years to rebuild a £9.4m school

A major fire at Thomas Fairchild Primary School in July 2009 destroyed 90% of the historic building with 75 firefighters on the scene and 15 fire engines.

A brand new school was built at the cost of £9.41m and disrupted the lives of those involved for three years during construction.

source: bbc.co.uk

KICK THE WEDGE

Busy corridors result in the need to hold open school fire doors to ease access. However, it is illegal to hold open internal fire doors with a wooden wedge or any other object as, in the event of a fire, the doors will then provide no protection to the building and its occupants.

Good fire protection does not necessarily mean investing in an expensive detection system, which involves significant disturbance to the fabric of the building due to re-wiring. Fitting internal fire doors with a wire-free fire door holder can ensure your building is protected in the event of a fire whilst improving ventilation and access through the building, thus reducing wear and tear to the fire door itself.

WIRE-FREE CHOICES - Radio-activated V Sound-activated

When deciding on which fire door technology is most suitable for your school think about the size of your school, installation and maintenance, time and costs. Here are the choices of wire-free fire door devices available from Geofire:

Sound-activated devices: The Agrippa fire door holders and closers are activated by the specific sound of a school's fire alarm and are standalone products which may be simply installed when and where required. As the Agrippa devices learn the sound of the fire alarm, false activations from background noises are very unlikely except in the loudest conditions.



Agrippa is ideal for smaller, less noisy areas of a building. The devices have a battery life checker, daily timed release and manual release button and are quick and easy to install.

Radio-activated solutions: Salamander wire-free devices are controlled by radio technology linked to the fire alarm control panel. A trained contractor will conduct a survey and can install the system and device without any structural work. Controlled and monitored centrally from a mains operated controller and wired directly to the building's fire alarm and detection panel, the fire door devices are ideal for escape routes, corridors and stairwells.



Salamander is ideal for larger, noisy environments, as well as historic buildings. The system can control 99 fire doors and has a daily timed release.

CASE STUDY

Agrippa digital technology solves fire door safety at Science College.

Agrippa sound activated fire door holders installed in Surrey's leading specialist science college has improved access for staff and students, and reduced the effects of door wear and tear, whilst protecting occupants in a fire emergency.

Blenheim High School in Epsom, Surrey is a co-educational publicly funded specialist science college. With in excess of 1,300 students, the need to ensure smooth movements

for students and teachers, maintaining safety and security and unrestricted access are a priority.

The installation of twenty Agrippa wire-free fire door holders has provided Blenheim School with the perfect solution. Following the installation of the devices they stated, "Like any busy institution, our fire doors are subject to high levels of use which makes them prone to excessive wear and damage, either accidental or deliberate. The Agrippa holders retain the fire doors tightly against corridor walls, which maximizes the door



opening and means they do not release even when students bang into them. The pre-set closing flexibility suits the school day as we can set the doors to automatically close after school hours."

GEO FIRE

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Longfield Road, South Church ind Est
Bishop Auckland, Co.Durham
England DL14 4XB
Tel: +44 (0) 1388 770 360
Email: info@geofire.co.uk
www.geofire.co.uk



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BUREAU VERITAS
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Contact us for more advice and recommendations, or for more information on the Geofire range of Fire Security Solutions.