

Fenway Park

AFA Protective Systems, Inc. has provided fire and life safety services to Fenway Park for more than 30 years.



YOUR FIRE AND SECURITY SOLUTION



CASE STUDY

Opened in 1912, Fenway Park is a veritable mecca for baseball fans the world over and the oldest venue used by a professional sports team in the United States. Due to the facility's age and constrained location in an urban neighborhood, fire detection and fire control functions are a top priority for the home of the Boston Red Sox. To meet this need, the iconic baseball venue looked toward their trusted partner of over 30 years, AFA Protective Systems, Inc. ("AFA"), to upgrade its existing fire system.

FENWAY PARK'S FIRE ALARM NEEDS

Fire detection and fire control functions are major considerations when it comes to sports arenas and other places of public assembly. Fenway's latest fire protection upgrade began in earnest to accommodate system growth and new code considerations. "It had come to a point where Fenway needed to upgrade their existing fire alarm systems because of the additional initiating and notification devices they were routinely adding," said AFA's New England Regional Director, Mike Slattery.

Centralized control of new systems installed throughout the park's facilities was a key element for the upgrade. Fenway Park's numerous adjoined buildings and tenant spaces are all tied into the life-safety solution, but there was no way to communicate to an individual facility. According to Slattery, "One of the concerns of the Boston Fire Department was that if there is an alarm in a restaurant, they just want to go to the main command center and select the restaurant and tell people to evacuate—they don't want to evacuate the entire ballpark."

At the behest of the Boston Fire Department, the capability to utilize selective paging had to be incorporated into the stadium's solution. AFA had to confront the issue of multiple brands of fire alarm systems that were installed over time at Fenway's individual facilities. This meant there was no means of centralized monitoring or control. The Fenway fire protection project encompassed the park and other adjacent and nearby structures, including the executive offices, laundry building and restaurants.

CREATING A CUSTOM SOLUTION FOR FENWAY

The Red Sox organization decided that a complete fire alarm upgrade was required to meet their current goals now and in the future. AFA was to design and install a solution to meet the demanding requirements of Fenway Park.

Team AFA set out to provide an advanced fire alarm emergency voice/alarm communications (EVAC) network throughout the historic ballpark and its surrounding buildings. AFA was able to satisfy all job specs with an advanced system of distributed intelligence, capable of integrating the park's existing initiating and notification devices.

The AFA led project utilizes sophisticated features, including an expandable system, centralized control of all systems throughout the stadium's facilities and an emergency voice/alarm communications network. AFA successfully completed the fast paced project and continues to provide Fenway Park with all required fire alarm services including monitoring, inspection and maintenance.

To provide facilities personnel and first responder's quick access to fire protection information, remote annunciators were installed throughout the park. The control room's head-end panel includes a network graphic annunciator (NGA), featuring touch-screen controls and an intuitive menu structure for easy operation and immediate supply of critical information.

The new system's expandable emergency evacuation system with integrated EVAC replaced the variety of existing head end panels and bulk audio EVAC equipment, plus the specific peripherals used to provide initiating, notification and fire control input/output functions. "Now with a push of a button, the fire alarm system can take over the park's public address system so emergency personnel can address the entire park, including the playing field, directly from the command center." While capable of housing hundreds of prerecorded messages, Fenway's new EVAC system also offers authorized users a means for delivering real time announcements throughout the park.

DRIVING HOME RESULTS FOR THE RED SOX

The Fenway Park upgrade exemplifies the importance of using a company with experience and knowledge of current code requirements to provide an advanced fire protection solution. AFA was able to work with Fenway's personnel to identify issues and provide more protection and audio/visuals throughout the entire ballpark. AFA was able to provide the requisite bulk audio system to a new, single fire protection network with integrated voice. The work AFA provided has readied the stadium facilities for future renovations and additions. As a result of this successful project, Fenway has relied on AFA ever since for all of its fire alarm and life safety needs including maintenance, inspection, and monitoring services.