

Secured Series

Case Study

Cambridge Fire Department



As the home of many defense contractors and world renowned institutions like Harvard University and MIT, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was concerned that historic Cambridge, Massachusetts could be a terrorist target.

As a result of an audit of Cambridge's Fire Department, FEMA mandated improvements to the physical security at the department's 8 fire stations and headquarters facility in order to assure full response capability in the event of such an event.

Alarmex, Inc. in Topsfield, MA, an IEI authorized GSA dealer, was contracted to design and install a system-wide state of the art access control system for the fire department. Alarmex chose IEI's Secured Series™ access solution largely because of the system's easy to use software and ability to use the city's IP network for data communication between multiple facilities.

The challenge for Alarmex was to provide a system controlling access to approximately 70 doors in 8 different locations. The solution Alarmex developed was to install IEI's Max 3 access control systems in each facility and use the IEI Secure Ethernet Gateway module (SEG-M) to connect each system to the City of Cambridge's Wide Area Network (WAN).

To administer and manage the system, IEI Hub Manager Professional software was installed on a network PC in headquarters. This enabled communication of access control system data across the WAN to each Max 3 system.

The end result was "a system that's friendly to the network" and met the FEMA requirements for readiness, according to the Fire Department's IT manager who performs the day to day management of the new security system. Additional benefits of the system include:

- Each firefighter was issued a unique smart card credential allowing universal access to all buildings eliminating reliance on keys
- The system creates a log of each entry increasing accountability
- Perimeter doors are monitored assuring each is closed and secure when a fire house is empty to protect equipment

The access system installation at Cambridge Fire Dept. was funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

Summary

PROBLEM:

- FEMA mandates improvements in physical security to prevent unauthorized entry to facilities
- Goal is to assure readiness to respond to terrorist attack or natural disaster
- Need to manage access to eight fire stations and head quarters from central location
- Need to fast track the installation of large city-wide project

SOLUTION:

- IEI Max 3 access control system installed in each fire station and headquarters
- Hub Manager Professional software installed on network PC in CFD headquarters
- Communication to and from each fire station facilitated by IEI SEG (Secure Ethernet Gateway) module
- Smart card credential issued to each firefighter

RESULTS:

- Investment to improve physical security meets FEMA requirements
- Greater accountability – a unique electronic record of each entry to a fire station
- Communications across existing IP network speeds up installation and reduces cost
- Easy to use software enables centralized management of multiple remote facilities
- Project funded by DHS Grant – Urban Area Security Initiative

