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Alarm Monitoring and Notification System Alerts Staff Instantly

7/13/99 When the water tank level in Winnsboro, SC, gets too low, an alarm call automatically goes out to a key staff member. If he is not in the office, the alarm system rolls over to call his cellular. If he still doesn't answer, the system calls his home. And, finally, if he still doesn't answer, his second in command is summoned.

When a lift station in Fairfield, OH, goes down and sewage is not being pumped, an alarm is sent out before its starts backing up into people's homes.

In Lake Elsinore, CA, staff can "call" pumps, which are inaccessible due to bad weather and listen to see if they are still running.

All of these scenarios are possible thanks to the ADAS DiaLog alarm monitoring and notification system, developed by Antx, Inc. "Any company (or agency) with equipment whose failure will cause significant interruptions to operations will find that the DiaLog's quick notification will minimize, or eliminate, potential disasters," says Stephen Allen, president of Antx, Inc.

DiaLog continues to call until all alarms are acknowledged

The system automatically phones or pages up to 16 separate numbers from a single or series of alarm conditions. DiaLog continues to call, giving user-recorded messages, until all alarms are acknowledged, ensuring that appropriate personnel are notified of critical conditions.

DiaLog alarms are activated by changes in conditions or controls at pump stations, water/ wastewater plants, compressor stations, electrical substations, cellular telephone sites, freezers, HVAC equipment, fire and security systems, fermenters, clean rooms, computer rooms, hatcheries, and other remote or unattended operations.

Key features include: notification via phone, pager, radio or modem, callback alarm acknowledgment, remote programming, remote call in for status, NEMA 4X enclosure, up to 40 alarm points monitored continuously, event logging, 24-hour battery backup, surge and power loss protection, local programming via keypad and local visual display of system and alarm status.

There's a constant confirmation that all phones lines are operational

In addition, the ADAS DiaLog Alarm Dialer Verification System provides a constant up-to-the minute confirmation that phone lines attached to each remote DiaLog are operational. All calls are recorded in a secure log, providing a complete audit trail of phone line status. Modems are not required in any DiaLog, although all modems work with any model DiaLog autodialer. The system allows for a secure and unedited log of every call.

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The DiaLog autodialer is capable of generating reports by a single station or by all stations. The verification system displays the status of each station. At a glance, the autodialer can confirm the last time the unit was called, the status, and whether it is on line or in a maintenance mode. It will also show the next time the calling sequence is going to start, and the frequency indicates how often the calling sequence is initiated.



Setting up the system is as simple as entering a title, setting a calling sequence frequency (which can be from five minutes to 12 hours), defining how many busy calls can put the unit into a NO ANSWER mode, and defining the disk location for the secure log files.



Town of Winnsboro maintains an alarm monitoring system for all utilities

The Town of Winnsboro, SC, is a small-to mid-sized municipality that recently increased its alarm monitoring units for gas, water, sewer and electrical power. Otis Williams, supervisor of water and wastewater treatment says: "Regulations are getting tighter on water and wastewater requirements. Years ago, if there was a problem with a lift station, it was only necessary to report it. Now, due to the strict regulations, such instances are subject to fines. It is just part of the regulations, and you must stay current with new codes and restrictions to be in compliance. It is cheaper to install the DiaLog alarm monitoring system than pay a fine."



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The DiaLog system first installed at the wastewater plant is still in use today. Prior to DiaLog, no other system was used at all. "This system was a stepping stone for us," said Williams. "We were getting new lift stations and new tank sites for distribution that we needed to monitor, and we had no other way to monitor them other than high level or low level. DiaLog solved these problems. Using DiaLog for all operations makes maintenance easier. Since all DiaLog systems have interchangeable parts, we can pull parts from one, and put it in another if needed."

"At the wastewater plant, we have had equipment fail in the middle of the night," he continued, "and in the past before using DiaLog, there was no way of notifying that this had happened until the next morning when an employee noticed the problem. Often times this was too late"

Fairfield relies on DiaLog to monitor its sanitary sewers system

The City of Fairfield is located approximately 35 miles north of Cincinnati, and with 410 miles of sanitary sewers and 16 lift stations, a reliable alarm monitoring system is vital. Jay Wright, collection systems foreman for the city says approximately 50 to 1500 gallons per minute of sewage run through the city's various stations, and whenever the unmanned stations have a problem, the DiaLog alarm monitoring calls into a central sewage plant location. The operator then contacts the appropriate people to take corrective action. The dialer calls a list of five different locations including the wastewater and water plants with final dial-out to the police station."

Preventing false alarms save municipal water district big dollars

Elsinore Valley (CA) Municipal Water District has 500 miles of sewer lines and 30 lift stations which depend on accurate and efficient alarm monitoring devices. Field Superintendent of Wastewater Collection Bill Coleman recalls: "When I came on board 12 years ago, we were getting three to four false alarms per day with the old system. It was set up like an answering service, and we had to pay for numerous open telephone lines." After installing Dialog units, there have been no false alarms.

During the El Nino storms, the alarm system was vital. "Some of the pumps were completely inaccessible during that time, but at least we could call and listen to hear if all pumps were still running in that area," Coleman explained.

Consulting firm uses alarms for large close landfills

O&M, an environmental consulting company specializing in post closure for large closed landfills, says an alarm monitoring system is a necessity for its operations. After a landfill is closed and covered, O&M is responsible for cutting the grass, making sure a security fence is installed properly, sampling and monitoring the ground water running to the treatment plants, and using the same treatment that was installed before closing the landfill. There is a leach collection system which is pumped into the storage tanks, and floats are used to set off the alarm when the water levels in the tanks are too low or too high, alerting the need to have someone come to the site.

One of the features that O&M found useful was DiaLog's remote programming that could shut off the alarm when needed. According to Bob Autio, project manager for O&M, "This saves time of having to drive to the location to adjust and turn off the alarm," he said.

Another problem O&M was facing was power failure caused by lightning. This would cause the site to run on continuous mode, but DiaLog can now notify them when the tank gets full.

For more information on the product, e-mail Steve Allen at sallen@antx.com.

Edited by Joyce Jungclaus.

Information provided by Antx, Inc., a company out of Austin, TX.

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