



Session 4D Performance-Based Audible and Visual Notification

Occupant Notification is not just about being able to hear or see a signal. It's all about trying to change the behavior of the target audience in the most efficient and effective way possible. It's also about trying to balance costs versus mission. Prescriptive code-based methods work for most situations, but not for challenging environments.

This presentation shows how engineered solutions can meet goals and reduce system costs. How can a system for tone and voice be optimized for high noise environments? How can you provide visual alerting and visual information in large, congested spaces, such as big box stores? It's really quite easy and cost effective. But, it requires you to actually do some analysis and engineering – more than just applying simple prescriptive code requirements and industry rules-of-thumb.

Attendees will learn performance-based options that optimize tone signals for a given audible noise spectrum. You will also learn how to designate Acoustically Distinguishable Spaces to develop a strategy that can be approved by an AHJ and that will meet the system mission goals. This presentation will introduce you to options for designing visible alerting for big box stores, including those with fixed racks and those that periodically change rack or shelf layouts.



Robert Schifiliti, P.E., FSPFE
President
R.P. Schifiliti Associates, Inc.

Robert Schifiliti is a licensed Fire Protection Engineer and holds a Master of Science degree in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). Mr. Schifiliti is the immediate past chair (2006 – 2016) of the NFPA Signaling Systems for the Protection of Life and Property Correlating Committee, which is responsible for the development of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code and NFPA 720, Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment. He is a member of the Notification Appliances technical committee for NFPA 72, which he chaired from 1993 to 2003 and is a member of the Commissioning and Integrated Testing technical committee (NFPA 3 and NFPA 4). Mr. Schifiliti is the author of the "Notification Appliances," chapter in the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook and the principal author of the "Design of Detection Systems" chapter in the SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering. Under a grant from the NFPA Fire Protection Research Association, he studied visible signaling in big box stores.

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