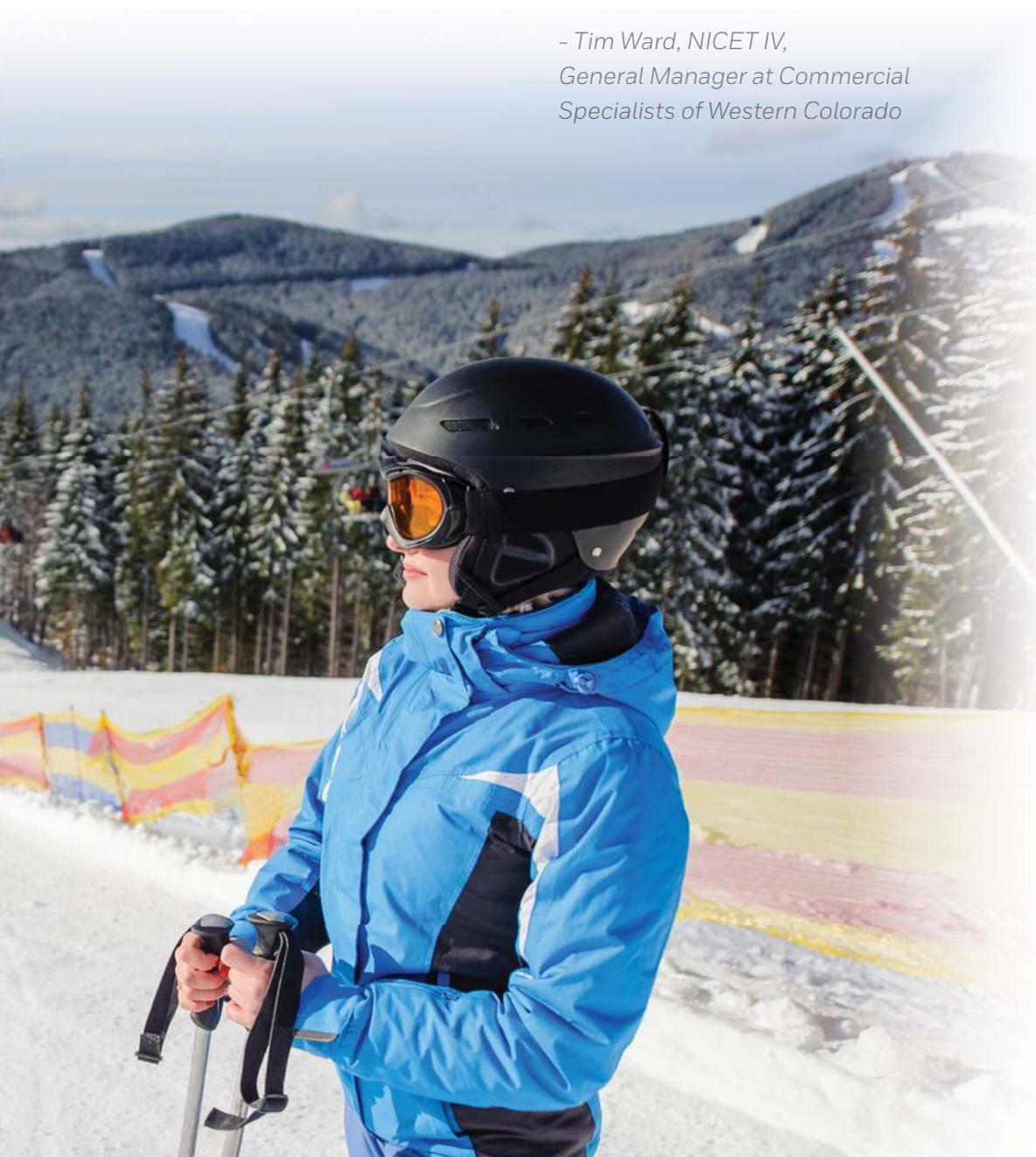


SWIFT® Finishes First at the World Ski Championships

“The expandability of the system is a huge benefit. It’s great to be able to expand and provide protection. You can keep adding on as big or small as you want to fit your application.”

*- Tim Ward, NICET IV,
General Manager at Commercial
Specialists of Western Colorado*

Case Study





SWIFT® - Smart Wireless Integrated Fire Technology

Challenge

Though not required by local code enforcement to install a fire alarm system within the temporary buildings, organizers decided to do so as a precaution. “They concluded it would be a good idea to have some form of fire protection in the buildings in case something happens, especially with all the electronics in the broadcasting facility,” said Tim Ward, NICET IV, general manager at Commercial Specialists of Western Colorado.

The structures would be taken down soon after the race, so organizers did not want to waste time pulling wires across the buildings to support the fire alarm system’s assorted field devices. Coupled with a tight deadline for installation and tear-down, it made sense to turn to a wireless fire alarm solution.

“Because of the ease of installation, it was just the perfect solution to go wireless,” said Joe Quinn, service manager at Commercial Specialists of Western Colorado. “By running a wireless system, we knew it would be beneficial because all we would have to do is place our bases and do the programming.”

Saving time was imperative; however, the amount of labor and material costs eliminated with the wireless system turned out to be significant.

Solution

Honeywell Fire Safety recently launched its Smart Wireless Integrated Fire Technology (SWIFT) line, which was chosen for these temporary facilities. It’s a Class A commercial wireless system using a highly-reliable mesh network that integrates with new and existing fire alarm systems from a variety of Honeywell brands.

Commercial Specialists of Western Colorado met all the deadlines for the fire alarm installation as the wireless project came together quickly. With a traditional wire detection system, they would have spent at least two more weeks onsite, running wire.

Such a speedy installation saved them a lot of time and labor; the wireless devices cost more than the hard wire, according to Ward, but the amount of time they saved in labor made up for more than the additional cost. Ward and Quinn both said they were very pleased with the incredibly quick installation period of three days for the wireless devices.



Fast

“I had one of my workers trim out an entire floor in less than 30 minutes,” Quinn said. “The nice thing is you can screw them right to the deck and then you’re done. I honestly thought we would be there all day, but he came back quickly and said he was done. I was really impressed with that.”

To install the system, Quinn simply had to:

- Program a distinct system profile for each device
- Insert batteries in each
- Install devices in specific locations
- Launch the mesh network formation routine, which automatically evaluates signal strength between all devices and creates all of the primary and secondary communication links for the mesh.

“It was my first time with wireless, and I would absolutely do it again,” Quinn added. “This was one of the easiest installs I’ve ever been a part of. Everything came together really nicely.”

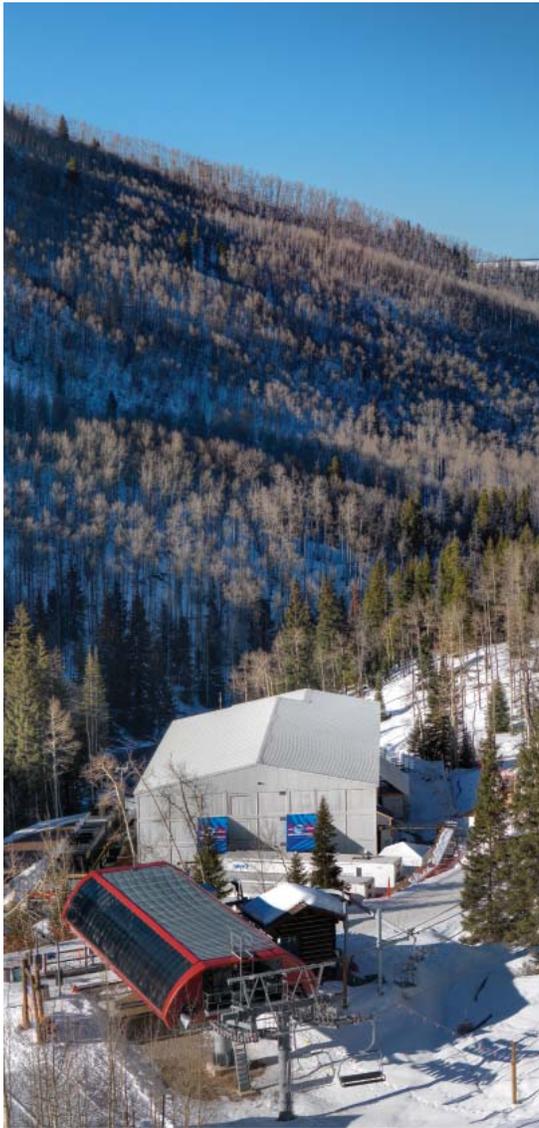
Reliable

For the lavishly designed VIP Building, the aesthetic advantages of using SWIFT came into play, according to Quinn. They didn’t want to run a bunch of red fire alarm wires all over the building where they would be visible.

In addition to wireless detectors, wireless monitor modules were used to support fire pull stations installed throughout. Quinn lauded the system’s transparency, claiming it to be “absolutely cosmetically beneficial.”

Ward said he’s worked with other wireless systems, but has never seen such reliability before. The SWIFT system’s proprietary protocol uses supervised, redundant communication paths to ensure that event data reaches the fire





alarm control panel. Signal strength for each communication link is evaluated, and the initial system setup automatically incorporates a safe margin to ensure that routine variations in the environment will not disrupt communication.

In a Class A mesh network such as the one used by SWIFT, each smoke detector and monitor module creates its own communication structure. That means communication goes from point A to point B through any number of these devices, creating redundant communication paths.

With multiple paths to employ, the system's reliability is maximized; if one communication path is blocked, a transmission will use redundant, preconfigured paths, or even establish new paths to insure that all transmissions reach the fire alarm control panel.

Results

For facilities planning to grow and with existing Honeywell Fire Safety brand systems, the SWIFT detectors offer an easy solution for protecting the new space. A wide breadth of Honeywell's commercial fire alarm systems are able to work with any combination of wired and wireless (SWIFT) devices.

"The expandability of the system is a huge benefit," Ward said. "It's great to be able to expand and provide protection. You can keep adding on as big or small as you want to fit your application."

Beyond reliability, speed of installation, cost savings and aesthetic appeal, the advantages of SWIFT can really benefit those facilities where the installation of wires is nearly impossible. To avoid drilling and running wire through concrete, decorative facades, historically significant structures and even areas where asbestos is present, going wireless with SWIFT just makes sense.

For more information

www.firelite.com/SWIFT

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