



March 2013 – Webinar Questions and Answers How to Conduct a Risk Analysis

Presented By: Jack Poole, PE, FSFPE

The recorded webinar along with copy of the presentation used can be found on [webinar](#) section of Fire-Lite's website.

1. Will the presentation be available to download for those portions I missed?
 - a. *No worries - this is getting recorded and you can watch on www.firelite.com in a day or two*
2. I would like to know if having the ability to activate the Amber lights on the voice Evac system from the FACP with the ability to use the FACP microphone for announcements as a level 1 system meets NFPA 72 or is more required?
 - a. *If the system does not require partial relocation or evacuation, then Level 1 is acceptable. Pathway survivability Level 1 consists of pathways in buildings that are fully protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13. The levels of survivability for a mass notification system is totally driven by the results of the Risk Analysis. Amber strobes are not "required" by code – this is also driven by the Risk Analysis.*
3. How will the cost of this risk analysis be covered? What kind of time factor will be associated with this assessment? Would all of the stakeholders need to get together as a group or through other electronic means?
 - a. *The cost of the Risk Analysis will be paid by the Owner as part of the project costs. Depending on the complexity of the facility, the hazards and the occupant characteristics, a Risk Analysis would typically take 2 – 3 weeks. It is recommended that at least one face-to-face meeting take place with all the stakeholders – after that electronic media would be acceptable,*
4. In the state of Michigan, the fire alarm detection devices for Fire Fighters' Emergency Operations cannot be part of the fire buildings fire alarm system. They are to be part of the elevator system not the fire alarm system. In this scenario, would the risk analysis indicate that you cannot use the elevator(s) for evacuation since the two systems are independent of each other?
 - a. *Discussion like this are prime discussions to be had with all stakeholders. What is the rationale for not allowing the fire alarm detection devices that are for Fire Fighters' Emergency Operations, to not be part of the fire alarm system. The fire alarm system brings a level of survivability and reliability to the system operations compared to that of the elevator system.*
5. Is there a rule of thumb on how long a risk analysis should take to complete (basing this on the square footage of the facility or site)?
 - a. *No, this would be a function of complexity of the facility, the hazards and the occupant characteristics.*
6. How do we budget for the cost of performing the Risk Analysis
 - a. *Since a Risk Analysis is typically lead by a design professional or Fire Protection Enigneer, that respective design professional of firm should be able to provide a lump sum fee and time line to perform the Risk Analysis once they have some knowledge about the complexity of the facility, the hazards and the occupant characteristics. Contact Jack Poole at Poole Fire Protection at 913-747-2050, we can provide a fee proposal.*
7. Please confirm that the non-fire emergency notification does not have to be automatic?
 - a. *Correct, it does not have to be automatic.*

8. Can you say a few words about the relationship between traditional emergency response planning and the new RA requirements in NFPA 72. Usually, two very different teams would be undertaking these separate plans.
 - a. *I agree with your comments. NFPA 1600 is the primary document used to create an Emergency Response Plan on how to deal with an emergency incident including providing a program for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, continuity, and recovery. The Risk Analysis as discussed in Chapter 24 of NFPA 72 is specially for the development of a mass notification system to understand the hazards, risks and how to design, install and test a system to best mitigate against those hazards and risks.*

9. In regards to Secondary Power (Battery Back-Up), System Powers supplies have a charging capacity limit. How do you evaluate an appropriate secondary power supply based on unknown Hazards?
 - a. *This is just one of many items that should be discussed and evaluated as part of the Risk Analysis by the stakeholders. The stakeholders should understand the worst case emergency incident that may cause interruption to primary power and then determine the number of hours of secondary power that should be provided.*

10. How often is the Fire Alarm/Life Safety contractor actually included in the Risk Analysis?
 - a. *I do not know. The Risk Analysis is something that can be initiated, and initially driven by the Fire Alarm Contractor.*

Please note:

While we have tried to answer your questions as fully as possible there are some questions that need a more detailed answer. If you have questions regarding what was heard in this webinar here are some contacts to reach out to: For NFPA & Code related questions please contact Jack Poole via his [website](#) or by email at jpoole@poolefire.com. Fire-Lite Alarms Technical Support is available for brand specific questions. Fire-Lite Tech can be reached [online](#), via email at firelite.tech@honeywell.com or by calling 1-800-627-3473. They are open Monday – Friday, from 7 am to 7 pm EST.