

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital

AFA Performs Fire Alarm
Inspection Services
at the James A. Haley
Veterans' Hospital in
Tampa Florida



YOUR FIRE AND SECURITY SOLUTION



CASE STUDY

Activated in 1972, the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (hereafter "JAHVH") is a healthcare facility and teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient services as well education and research amenities. The JAHVH consists of a dozen large buildings that make up the greater facility. When the hospital needed a reliable fire alarm company with the required resources to inspect their very large and complex facility, AFA Protective Systems, Inc. (AFA) proved to be the perfect fit.

PROBLEM

Performing fire alarm inspections for 12 government-operated hospital buildings is not an easy task. The company needs to have the resources and experience required to inspect a large facility with minimal disruptions to that facility when working on a fire alarm system. The company would also need experience working with government facilities to make sure all necessary paperwork and qualifications are adhered to.

In December 2018, the team at JAHVH asked their security vendor, ATEAM solutions, if they would be able to take on the code-required fire alarm inspection for the entire facility. Marlon Atherton, President of ATEAM Solution Services, immediately contacted Kris Olin from AFA regarding the inspections for all 12 buildings. "ATEAM considers us their service company. We have a great partnership with Marlon and his team," said Olin.

Since AFA was not yet familiar with the facility, the expectation was for there to be a steep learning curve because of the many nuances to each building. "During our initial inspection, we found a lot of unlisted devices that were sub-basement, some of which we couldn't even get to," said Olin.

AFA agreed to take on the task of providing the following code-required services:

- Quarterly inspections, including waterflows and tampers, as well as checking the pre-action panels.
- Semi-annual inspections for all supervisory devices and duct detectors.
- Annual inspections on all devices, including smoke control and pre-action panels.
- Set up the inspection paper work required by government mandate to maintain the VA's and Joint Commission's Standards.

SOLUTION

The first inspection proved to be difficult for AFA because there were dozens of unlisted devices in the facility. With the help of the JAHVH staff, AFA was able to navigate the facility. "There were devices hidden everywhere," said Olin. "It took a lot of time, communication and patience." Nevertheless, the AFA team worked through each problem, learning about the facility on the fly. AFA assigned 3 technicians to the facility in order to inspect and re-map the devices. This allowed for devices to be located quickly for future inspections.

Both ATEAM and JAHVH took notice of AFA's hard work, stating: "We found them to be very professional. AFA's lead technician Tim Fenn was exceptionally responsive and knowledgeable. We have always liked the way AFA represents both of our companies," said Marlon from ATEAM.

As a result, AFA will be inspecting the JAHVH for the next 5 years via their agreement with ATEAM. Since taking on the fire alarm inspections for the JAHVH, AFA was able to accomplish the following for the hospital:

- **SAVE MONEY AND TIME:** AFA was able to price the inspection work at a cost savings compared to the previous vendor.
- **PROVIDE MORE THOROUGH SERVICES:** AFA's ability to find and map out devices that were not on the original inspection reports provided the hospital a complete report for the status of their fire alarm system.
- **MORE RESPONSIVE SERVICE:** AFA technicians conducted meetings directly with the VA in order to get the facility up to speed. AFA continues to work with the VA ensuring the health of their fire alarm system.
- **ENSURE COMPLIANCE:** The Joint commission standards are very specific Federal government requirements that state how the fire alarm system should be listed and reported. Since AFA had experience in other VA buildings and federal government facilities, they were able to accurately provide inspection reports, bringing the facility in compliance with the Federal government.
- **WORK THROUGH COVID PROTOCOL:** The hospital remained operational during the COVID-19 Pandemic, treating regular patients as well as those affected by the virus. As a result, AFA took all required steps to comply in order to continue delivering service. AFA purchased protective equipment and adhered to checkpoints and temperature checks to keep the hospital as safe as possible.

CONCLUSION

AFA is currently in the second year of performing quarterly and annual fire alarm inspections to the fire alarm and pre-action system smoke control. Both ATEAM and the JAHVH have been happy with the responsiveness and thoroughness of AFA's fire alarm services. "We are happy to have partnered with a company that is responsive, knowledgeable and with the resources needed to service this site," said Marlon from ATEAM. AFA has met and exceeded the expectations of the hospital and looks forward to a long partnership servicing the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.