eight intelligent photoelectric beam detectors, strobes and alarm horns, and waterflow switches and fire sprinkler valve supervision switches.

Interfacing with the system is the UniNet 2000, an advanced network that allows users to monitor and control security, fire, card access, CCTV, and other facility information over a proprietary LonWorks network. A PC workstation is the operator interface to the UniNet system, featuring plug-in applications and allowing continued expansion of workstation and network functions. The workstation features customizable screens and has the ability to monitor multiple local device networks and remote sites.

"The installation was completed in just nine months," says Roger Harmon, the director of security at the Gilcrease Museum. "The system is working even better than we expected, and has already paid for itself many times over. It has already detected one problem in an overheating transformer that could have been disastrous." **ST&D**

Better Safe Than Sorry
Fire prevention guidelines for public facilities
By Marleah Blades

In March of last year, the National Fire Protection Association released a new edition of NFPA 1600, Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs. If you based part of your emergency management or business continuity program on the 2004 version, you should head to www.nfpa.org and take a look. The new standard may be downloaded free of charge.

One major change the 2007 version presents: it elevates the element of prevention to the list of the main aspects of emergency management, which previously only included mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The 2004 version identified prevention as a subset of mitigation, but during the revision process the association realized that the elimination or prevention of exposure must be dealt with separately from the reduction or mitigation of exposure.

All private-sector businesses and sites large and small should look at the changes to NFPA 1600 and consider incorporating them into their emergency management and business continuity plans. Keep in mind that in August last year, President Bush signed into law the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53), which specifically mentions NFPA 1600 as a standard private-sector businesses should try to meet. Does this set the stage for it to become the legal standard for fair and reasonable due diligence in the event of a crisis? Better safe than sorry.

Marleah Blades is senior editor for the Security Executive Council, an international professional membership organization for leading senior security executives. The Security Executive Council maintains a large and growing list of laws, regulations, standards and guidelines that impact security at https://www.securityexecutivecouncil.com/public/lrvc. For more information about the council, visit www.SecurityExecutiveCouncil.com/?sourceCode=std.

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