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Health, Safety & Security Review

Middle East

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WORKING SAFELY AT HEIGHT

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editor's note

It is heartening to see the return of face-to-face events, albeit with Covid-19 precautions. September sees the return of the International Security Expo to London (p7), which will be followed in October by A+A, in Düsseldorf, Germany (p10). They will offer valuable opportunities to establish and renew business connections in person.

This issue addresses construction safety, with features on working at height (p12) and the importance of involving the safety team at an early stage of a project (p18). Other areas covered include the latest connected worker solutions (p20), and innovative fire safety technologies (p14).

Louise Waters, Editor

Editor: Louise Waters

Email: louise.waters@alaincharles.com

Deputy Editor: Matthew Hayhoe

Editorial and Design Team: Mariam Ahmad Prashanth AP, Fyna Ashwath, Miriam Brtkova Praveen CP, Robert Daniels, Shivani Dhruv Manojkumar K, Prince Kariappa, Unique Pattnaik Rahul Puthenveedu Deblina Roy and Vinita Tiwari

Magazine Sales Manager: Richard Rozelaar
Tel: +44 20 7834 7676 Fax: +44 20 7973 0076
Email: richard.rozelaar@alaincharles.com

Head Office:
Alain Charles Publishing Ltd, University House, 11-13 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EX, UK
Tel: +44 20 7834 7676, Fax: +44 20 7973 0076

Middle East Regional Office:
Alain Charles Middle East FZ-LLC,
Office L2-112, Loft Office 2, Entrance B,
PO Box 502207, Dubai Media City, UAE
Tel: +971 4 448 9260, Fax: +971 4 448 9261

Production: Srinidhi Chikkars, Dinesh Dhayalan, Swati Gupta and Nelly Mendes
E-mail: production@alaincharles.com

Subscriptions: E-mail: circulation@alaincharles.com

Publisher: Nick Fordham

Chairman: Derek Fordham

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Byrne Rental completes ISO 45001 2018

Certification

Byrne Rental, the GCC rental firm, has made their stance on health and safety standards clear as it celebrated the completion of the ISO 45001 2018 certification.

The rental and hire firm, which employs a team of more than 1,500 people and supplies a fleet of 14,000 items to the oil and gas, construction and infrastructure, events, and industrial and manufacturing industries, has received recognition for its health and safety regulation adherence with the award.

The ISO 45001 2018 certification regulates requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system and includes guidance for its use, enabling certified businesses to provide safe and healthy workplaces.

Steve Caygill, UAE regional manager at Byrne, explained, "Byrne's recent completion of ISO 45001 2018 demonstrates the company's commitment to reducing risks in the workplace and creating safer working conditions for all.

Image Credit: Byrne Rental

Byrne's 1,500-strong workforce has received ISO recognition of its health and safety standards.

"This certification is acknowledged worldwide, which lends recognition to Byrne for having achieved an international benchmark. Furthermore, the completion of ISO 45001 2018 aligns with Byrne's mission of sustaining an organisation that is built around best practice. This, coupled with our other ISO certifications, continues to reinforce Byrne's committed and sustained drive towards best international practices." Conforming to the most up-to-date OH&S standards exemplifies a company's commitment to improving employee safety and reducing workplace risks. ISO certification ensures organisations achieve and evaluate a high level of OH&S performance throughout their operations, and encourages workers to take an active role in OH&S matters.

Global training initiative launched for health and safety at work

Training

The Vision Zero training network has launched a training excellence initiative to meet global calls for a safer world of work.

The initiative is inspired by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Vision Zero strategy, which focuses on a culture of prevention underpinned by seven golden rules, and is supported by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).

On behalf of the 15,000 strong Vision Zero network, made up of major users of health and safety services and training providers from across the world, the ISSA Special Commission on prevention has announced a new accreditation programme. Training providers will have the opportunity to become either a basic accredited Vision Zero trainer or a professional accredited Vision Zero trainer, offering certified Vision Zero training.

Emirates wins triple gold for safety of its transport services in UAE

Safety

Emirates has received three gold citations from RoSPA awards in the UAE: the Fleet Safety Award, Health & Safety Award and Leisure Safety Award, making Emirates the first airline to achieve to consecutive awards.

It has received the recognition for its outstanding ground transport services, demonstrating tangible outcomes in its operational safety performance, health and safety governance systems, and extensive COVID-19 precautions to safeguard its people and customers.

RoSPA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), is a UK organisation focusing on promoting and facilitating occupational health and safety, and road, home, leisure and education safety around the world.

The annual RoSpa Awards are reviewed by a panel of independent assessors, with stringent submissions requiring demonstrable evidence of an entrant's health and safety management systems.

In the UAE, Emirates operates a fleet of just over a thousand vehicles to transport its crew and other employees to and from the workplace, averaging 2.5 million road trips in a normal year. It also puts in place standards and protocols for service providers to transport premium customers to and from the airport in comfort and safety as part of its signature Emirates Chauffeur Drive service.

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MENA	Tel: +971 4 448 9260
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USA	Tel: +1 203 226 2882
EUROPE	Tel: +44 20 7834 7676

E-mail : post@alaincharles.com
Web : www.alaincharles.com
www.oilreview.me

Mandiant highlights cyber threats

Cyber security

Financially motivated threat activity is fast becoming a high-volume threat to both organisations and individuals in the Middle Eastern and North African countries.

Jens Monrad, director, head of Mandiant Intelligence, EMEA, says that the Middle East and North Africa regions continue to be targeted by cyber espionage operations seeking political, strategic or economic advantage. Monrad further explains that the top malware detections for Q2 2021 in the Middle East and North Africa show a continued focus on credential theft. Malware that can steal credentials from victims can allow further compromises of both private and government enterprises and personally targeted fraud.

As the region continues to digitalise infrastructure, it will likely attract cyber threats that are financially motivated, as stolen credentials provide access to enterprises or serve as a path for ransomware deployments. To better defend against credential theft, organisations should implement multi-factor authentication wherever possible and minimise the usage of global or local administrative privileges for users.

Image Credit: Mandiant Intelligence

Jens Monrad, director, head of Mandiant Intelligence, EMEA

Additionally, monitoring and tracking unusual activity from authenticated users could allow an organisation to discover an unusual activity at an earlier stage, which is crucial to minimise the threat and its impact.

Advanced driver assistance systems sales to increase: FMI study

Safety

A survey conducted by FMI reveals that the global advanced driver assistance systems market is anticipated to surpass a valuation of US$222mn in 2021.

Through the course of the forecast period, starting from 2021 to 2031, the market is expected to register a robust CAGR of 12.1%. Due to the growing awareness about the importance of advanced systems such as night vision, road sign recognition and drowsiness monitoring among vehicle owners, sales in the market is likely to surge at 3.2x through 2031.

Rising cases of road accidents have made it imperative to incorporate ADAS (advanced driver assistance systems) in vehicles across all segments, commercial and passenger alike.

FMI, in its new report, offers an analysis of the global advanced driver assistance systems market, analysing forecast statistics through 2021 and beyond.

Cartlow partners with Blue Ocean Global to boost circular economy

Cartlow, re-commerce and reverse logistics facilitator across the UAE & KSA, has partnered with Blue Ocean Global, which represents some of the world's top telecom, electronics, and small domestic appliance brands, in an effort to streamline its product return flow, enhance conversion rate, and sustain a healthy inventory.

The collaboration will allow both parties to have an even greater impact on decreasing waste from returned, open-box, and clearance products, by reselling products on Cartlow's popular re-commerce platform which has more than one million active users per month. The partnership between both entities is set to significantly improve Blue Ocean Global's reverse inventory problems by helping with their sustainability and overall warehouse storage, whilst fuelling e-commerce growth in the region on a larger scale.

"Our notable partnership with Blue Ocean Global will support them in achieving a more sustainable business model when it comes to stock and return management. Nowadays, leading distributors are rethinking the way they manage returned and overstock items, and we are here to assist them in achieving higher inventory recovery rates, improving warehouse utilisation capacity, all whilst reducing their overall handling costs," commented Mohammad Sleiman, founder & CEO at Cartlow.

events calendar 2021-2022

September			
12-15	**The Big 5**	DUBAI	www.thebig5.ae
28-29	**International Security Expo**	LONDON	www.internationalsecurityexpo.com
October			
26-29	**A+A**	DUSSELDORF	www.aplusa-online.com
November			
1-3	**IFSEC FIREX EGYPT**	CAIRO	www.ifsecandfirexegypt.com
15-18	**ADIPEC**	ABU DHABI	www.adipec.com
January 2022			
16-18	**Intersec**	DUBAI	www.intersec.ae.messefrankfurt.com/dubai/em.html
May 2022			
17-19	**Safety & Health Expo**	LONDON	www.safety-health-expo.co.uk/en/home.html

Please verify dates and location with organisers as this information can be subject to change

International Security Expo returns to London

Security

The International Security Expo will return to Olympia London from 28-29 September 2021, bringing Government, industry, academia and end-user communities together to debate challenges, share knowledge and updates and source the latest security technologies, products and services.

More than 14,000 vetted visitors are set to attend the event. They will be able to peruse the stands of more than 400 global exhibitors showcasing cutting edge innovations and next-generation capabilities. The line-up includes the likes of Apstec, Excelerate, HS Security Group, Smitie, Bastion Security Products and more.

For the first time in the show's history, ISE will be co-located with a brand-new security event, The International Cyber Expo (ICE). Designed to help improve the security and resilience of national infrastructures, it will deliver learning opportunities around cyber security risks and threats, detection and response, as well as showcase the very latest technology and services that protect the digital and physical future of businesses.

The event features a number of dedicated zones, such as the popular Drone & Counter UAV Zone, Perimeter Protection Zone, Counter-EO UK Pavilion, and Disaster and Resilience Zone.

This year's educational agenda will deliver the latest insights, analysis and invaluable perspective from world-leading security and cyber industry experts, discussing mitigation strategies, best practices and high-level policy. All sessions addressing the latest topics and threats are CPD certified.

Recognising the importance of getting the industry moving after such a turbulent year, the show's personalised matchmaking service designed to match qualified buyers with hand-picked solution providers, CONNECT+, will be free of charge to all exhibitors for the first time, helping visitors and exhibitors to network and build strong relationships.

To further facilitate senior international buyers, a series of new Virtual Buyer Rooms will also allow them to connect with solution providers in London via video links, should they not be able to attend in person.

Event director Rachael Shattock said, "This past year has shown us that we live in unprecedented and uncertain times and as such, protecting our security for all eventualities is more important than ever before. The industry is quickly adapting to new and unforeseen risks and challenges and we are proud to deliver an event that will help to foster collaboration and drive the industry forward at such a critical time.

"As the world returns to normal, we are delighted to connect the industry through face-to-face meetings once again."

For more information and to register your interest to attend, visit: https://www.internationalsecurityexpo.com/.

The importance of safety management systems

A look back on 2021's virtual edition of the HSE Oman Forum, the 'Savings Through Safety' panel, as well as thoughts and reflections from chief sponsor Yokogawa RAP's business development manager, Suriya Narayanan.

Image Credit: Alain Charles Publishing

"The next step is to place the wellbeing of the worker at the centre of the new production process and to use new technologies to provide prosperity beyond jobs and growth, while respecting limits."

Mark Breese, global sales manager at Yokogawa RAP.

HSE OMAN FORUM 2021 welcomed a number of guest speakers and panellists, including Yokogawa RAP, one of the event's main sponsors, who held the opening session, 'Savings Through Safety'.

Mark Breese, global sales manager, Yokogawa RAP, used the panel to highlight a fresh intuitive gateway to safer workforce culture; he cited a quote from European Commission, saying "The next step is to place the wellbeing worker at the centre of the production process and to use new technologies to provide prosperity beyond jobs and growth while respecting the production limits of the planet."

In line with this, Breese discussed the reasons for industrial fatalities. 60% of accidents happen due to a lack of inadequate control in work as poor understanding of risks are involved is the primary factor. He cited the main cause causes of accidents in Oman, where 34% of workplace injuries are from vehicle accidents. As per the statistics provided by the Public Authority of Social Insurance (PASI), as many as 158 cases of the 454 workplace-related injuries in 2018 were due to vehicle-related accidents. 26% of accidents are caused due to slips, trips and falls, and 27% of accidents are caused due to debris, high falls, moving equipment and sharps.

Key pillars

Breese highlighted the key pillars of control of work. He said that three core functions make up the control of work: plant assets and processes, plant systems and technologies, and safe working practices. All three pillars should be equally represented and linked together to make a proper balance among risk assessment, isolation management and permit to work.

Nadhira Al Hinai, general manager Al Tasnim Group, stressed on the importance of training to employees on HSE elements. According to her, if the operator wants to improve the element of HSE in the organisation, training is a must

for the employees as it gives more hands on knowledge and expertise on HSE for their own safety and that of others. Whereas teaching is more abstract and theoretical, hands-on training on HSE elements give real-time knowledge on HSE components to employees.

Neelesh Sogani, chairman, IOSH Oman, highlighted the importance of allocating a budget for HSE. "If you don't budget for incidents, and an incident happens in your organisation, ultimately it is going to impact your annual budget and profitability. Normally, the approach of the management in most of organisations is that the HSE is the cost centre."

After Yokogawa's successful involvement in Oman's HSE event, Suriya Narayanan gave his thoughts and reflections on the event.

Yokogawa RAP champions a control of work solution to reduce health and safety incidents in the workplace.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Main takeaways

On his main takeaways from the event, Narayanan explained, "It's clear that organisations consider safety as an important criteria to increase profitability and value of their investment.

"I understand that digitalisation of Permit to Work process is a great enabler to drastically reduce incidents to ensure safety of workers at industrial sites."

The event encouraged Yokogawa to reflect on its own implementation of HSE protocol, with Narayanan continuing, "Yokogawa developed RAP, which is an integrated control of work solution for applying HSE best practices and also to ensure standardised procedures are followed by field workers.

"The hazards and controls database of RAP is robust to ensure all kinds of risks are assessed and proper mitigation controls are implemented. RAP system captures incidents that occurred in the past and records lessons learned as a knowledge base to avoid those mistakes in the future."

Considering the Middle East's approach as a whole, Yokogawa's business development manager affirmed, "Control of work management should be one of the basic functionalities of Safety management system of any organisation apart from regulatory reporting requirements.

"Control of work procedure should be embedded in procedures, namely maintenance planning, process safety management, permit to work, isolation (LOTO), competency management, SIMOPS and barrier management so that line of sight is always there on safety & risk from the top management down to field technicians."

Shifting landscape

Reflecting on the role of the pandemic in shifting the landscape of HSE regulations, Narayanan elaborated, "The pandemic has removed many barriers to digitalisation and helped work to continue interrupted by implementing connected technology solutions to share live information within seconds from one industrial field to a subject matter expert located in another corner of the world.

"Now that industry has understood the fact that we are all digitally present everywhere, I am sure that industry will accelerate implementing these digitally connected applications post pandemic to enhance productivity and increase compliance to safety standards.

> **"Now that industry has understood the fact that we are all digitally present everywhere, I am sure that industry will accelerate implementing these digitally-connected applications post-pandemic."**
>
> **Suriya Narayanan, business development manager at Yokogawa.**

"It is essential to ensure the workforce is vaccinated against Covid-19 (including booster doses to protect from its variants), follow the precautions stipulated by the organisation and guidelines issued by ministry of health of their respective country."

Regarding the future of the HSE sector as a whole, Narayanan concluded, "Digitalisation will fuel the development of the HSE sector along with the rules and guidelines issued by local regulators in line with international standards. With the latest digital solutions of Yokogawa-RAP, we can ensure together that HSE incidents are only in artifacts of history."

HSE Oman Forum was held virtually from 22-23 June 2021. See hssreview.com for reports on the event. ❖

Coming together for occupational safety & health

The OSH industry looks forward to A+A as a physical trade fair from 26-29 October, with more than 1,000 companies set to showcase their products, solutions and global innovations at the Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre, Germany.

"Together with our exhibitors, we are looking forward to in-person exchanges and a real trade fair experience after many months of digital-only contact."

Erhard Wienkamp, managing director Operative Trade Fair Business, Messe Düsseldorf

Image Credit: Messe Düsseldorf

The latest in PPE and safety clothing will be on show.

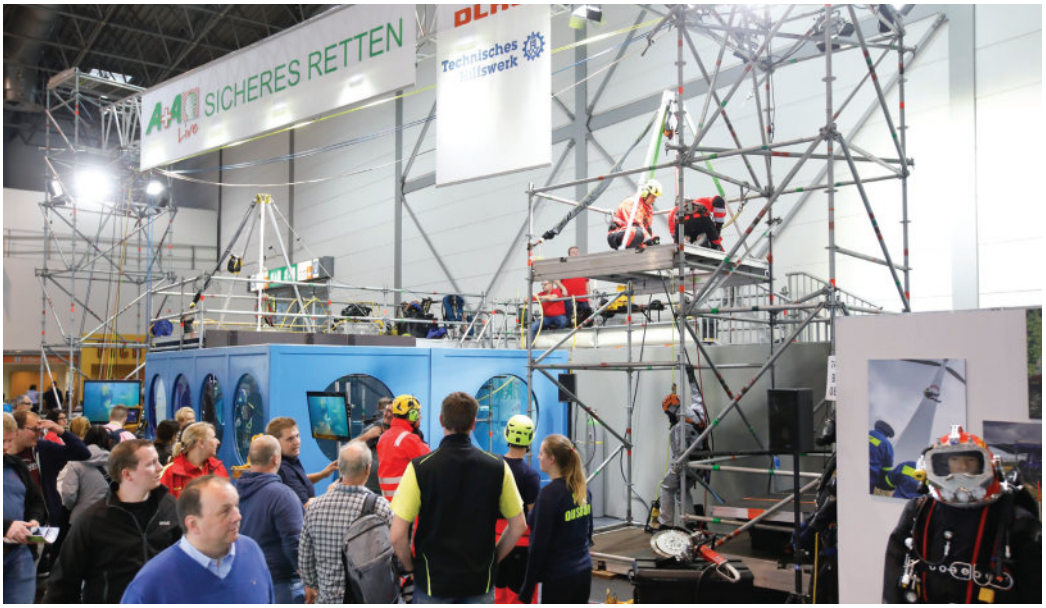
A+A, the world's leading event for safety, security and health in the workplace, is held in Düsseldorf every two years. Together with the concurrent International Congress for Occupational Safety and Occupational Medicine, and organised by the German Federal Association for Occupational Safety and Health, the trade fair covers all aspects of holistic prevention culture ranging from corporate health management and personal protective equipment to workplace design and security at work.

Erhard Wienkamp, managing director Operative Trade Fair Business of Messe Düsseldorf, said, "Together with our exhibitors we are looking forward to in-person exchanges and a real trade fair experience after many months of digital-only contact with business associates, potential customers and key decision-makers in this industry.

"Health and safety for people has never been as vital as it is today. It is extremely important to again provide the whole sector with this prominent platform for personal exchange and the presentation of products and innovations," underlined Klaus Bornack, managing director of BORNACK GmbH & Co. KG and chairman of the Exhibitors' Advisory Board.

"Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, we have observed new interest in the topic of occupational safety and health. The subject is not the only focus of the upcoming A+A Congress 2021. Safe and healthy work has also become a core issue during combating of the Covid-19 pandemic," said Hubertus Heil, Federal Minister of Labour and

Image Credit: Messe Düsseldorf



A safe rescue demonstration at the show.

Social Affairs member of the German Bundestag.

A+A Connected – a hybrid trade fair experience

The live programme on site will be extended to include digital content, with extracts from the agenda of the concurrent 37th Congress for Occupational Safety and Occupational Medicine, organised by Basi, the Federal Association for Occupational Safety & Health, to be streamed online.

"By launching this digital offensive on our industry portal, we offer not only new avenues to our exhibitors and presentations delivered live at A+A, but also a wide variety of additional options for obtaining targeted information regardless of the location," stressed Birgit Horn, project director A+A.

Another digital add-on offer for both exhibitors and visitors are product-related web sessions. Thanks to the additional digital channel, exhibitors can also reach out to potential customers who will be unable to attend the trade fair this year. For more information on the web sessions and extra presentation options for exhibitors via the exhibitor profile go to: www.aplusa.de/explanatory_videos

37th Congress for Occupational Safety and Health

At the 37th Congress for Occupational Safety and Health, stakeholders and decision-makers in occupational safety and health from industry, trade, administration, politics and science will come together. The focus will be on current topics such as Work 4.0, the potential of digitalisation and artificial intelligence for occupational safety and health, working during a pandemic, and the implementation of Vision Zero.

Other topics that will be discussed in innovative formats include mobile work, OSH in international supply chains, sustainability in OSH, and the future of work in Europe and worldwide.

Comprehensive safety and hygiene concept

Messe Düsseldorf has a comprehensive Hygiene and Infection Protection Concept for events at its base in Düsseldorf. To guarantee the best possible protection of all trade fair participants during A+A 2021, pre-registration and reservation of day tickets together with verification documents (tested, vaccinated or recovered) is mandatory for visitors. ❖

For current information on the Hygiene and Infection Protection Concept of Messe Düsseldorf go to www.aplusa.de/PROTaction

For information on A+A 2021 go to www.aplusa-online.com and on the Congress to www.basi.de

Trending topics at A+A

The industry's trending topics shape the appearance of A+A 2021 – whether through the solutions and products displayed by exhibitors over around 50,000 sq m, or by the numerous contributions and presentations in the Special Areas and at the Trend Forum. The trend topics of A+A 2021 include:

- Digital performance: Digital tools pave the way for a smart future of the industry. These include solutions for digital process optimisation, automation in procurement, manufacturing and delivery
- Sustainability: Sustainable governance while assuming responsibility for people, the planet and the climate at the same time. These themes will be addressed by the experts at A+A under the headings of circular economy (packaging and recyclability of products), due diligence legislation, certification and sustainable products
- Future solutions: New impulses will come care of the Start Up Zone, putting young and innovative enterprises in the limelight. Smart "assistants" will demonstrate their abilities in the Robotics Park
- New work: New work worlds are emerging constantly today. Digital transformation and communication technologies enable location-independent working and learning
- Hygiene & pandemic: How do I protect myself and my co-workers, and which lessons learnt from the pandemic will shape tomorrow's prevention measures. Find out about approaches and products and listen to relevant lectures at the Trend Forum.

Deploying self-retracting lifelines

Jon Rowan, product line manager at MSA Safety, explores where, when and how self-retracting lifelines (SRLs) should be deployed for vertical fall arrest protection, and looks at the features that define the most reliable, robust and best lifetime-value equipment.

Image Credit: MSA Safety

"There are many scenarios where working at height is simply unavoidable."

MSA Safety's SRLs incorporate a number of innovative features in the V-Series range.

Despite significant advances in risk awareness and safety technology, falls from height remain a significant cause of injury and death.

There are many scenarios where working at height is simply unavoidable, and some of the most hazardous work sees operatives working on top of an elevated surface or structure. It is here where selecting the correct fall arrest solution is critical.

The hierarchy of fall protection is the starting point to determine what type of approach to working at height and/or fall protection system is required – and why.

- The preferred solution to all fall hazards is elimination.
- Passive fall protection: physical barriers such as guardrails around unprotected edges, for example.
- Fall restraint systems are erected in such a manner that a fall cannot occur. They use PPE to restrict the worker's range of movement so they cannot physically travel to the fall hazard.
- Fall arrest systems are erected in such a manner that a fall can occur, but the fall is arrested within acceptable force and clearance margins. A suitable rescue procedure would then need to be implemented.

Why self-retracting lifelines?
One of the most effective and widely used fall arrest solutions today is the Self-Retracting Lifeline (SRL). SRLs are replacing lanyards and rope grabs as they typically last longer, retract on movement, offer faster lock on and are easier to store.

A synthetic line or metallic cable attached to the worker's harness automatically extends and retracts from a floor or overhead anchored container unit as the worker moves. In the event of a sudden fall, the product will 'lock on' to arrest the force of the fall, and an energy absorption system will then limit the impact of that force on the body of the worker in the harness.

One of the first factors to consider when specifying the correct SRL system is the application and environment. What are the atmospheric conditions?
In a coastal location, for instance, continuous exposure to saltwater vapour poses the risk of accelerated corrosion for metal parts. Similar corrosive hazards can be present in petrochemical sites, posing potential degradation risks for SRL plastics and composites. SRL specification options available from MSA, for example, include the use of sealed SRL casings, military-grade plastics and high-grade S4 stainless steel components that provide additional barriers against corrosion.

An SRL is there to provide a fall arrest point. It will always be attached to an anchor which may be in different locations:

- Overhead anchor point: this is the standard way to attach an SRL – to a carabiner or point above the workspace. This approach is traditionally seen when there has been an investment in infrastructure, and the benefit is that in the case of a slip or trip, there is less distance to fall.
- Foot level anchor point: a foot or deck level tie off – positioned at foot level, with the SRL attached. This is a more common approach and is in many ways easier to use as nothing needs to be lifted overhead. However, it does mean that if the worker falls, the product is at a 90-degree angle to the fall. On many sites, edges of roofs and structures can be sharp, so a foot level anchor must always be tested and 'edge rated'.

Understanding your anchor point is the first step in making an appropriate product choice – you need to consider where the anchor is, how far it is away from the working point and how far away it is from the edge. Being conscious of fall clearance is also vital – having knowledge of distance means you can allow enough space for a fall to happen in the safest way possible. Once these things are understood, you can then make an informed choice on safety equipment, such as SRLs.

Match the solution to the application

There are a vast number of situations where fall protection is necessary, and it is important to consider the individual differences between applications. For example, working with solar panels on a rooftop or servicing an aircraft wing will require care to prevent equipment causing damage. Using a synthetic web lifeline will minimise the risk of damaging products and surfaces. Conversely, the presence of sharp edges that could sever a fabric line necessitates use of a high-grade steel cable. Similarly, a construction site may have abrasive concrete dust that will degrade synthetic lines, requiring a steel cabled solution.

SRLs are also inherently versatile and used across a wide range of industries and horizontal, overhead, and leading edge applications. From vertical access via pylons, turbines, water towers and confined spaces in general, to loading and maintenance bays, assembly lines, silos, rooftops and the building and construction industry at large, SRLs can help to take the guesswork out of equipment selection.

Another factor to consider is fall clearance – the minimum vertical distance required between a worker's feet and a lower level, which can also vary at different points on the working area. A self-retracting lifeline can accommodate significant variance since it remains under tension and automatically adjusts the line. As an example, the latest addition to MSA Safety's V-Series SRL range offers a new maximum line extension of 30m.

Ultimately, the design of an SRL directly impacts safety and whole service-life cost. While technically all products are certified to the same standard, the reality is that not all are created equal. Entry-level, economy priced PPE is much less likely to offer the same performance and durability as higher quality, more premium solutions.

> "The design of an SRL directly impacts safety and whole service-life cost."

Trying to minimise expenditure at the outset can be a false economy. Investing in the best equipment can yield lifetime savings and result in lower total cost of ownership. For example, equipment that is inherently designed to be serviceable in the field and minimise repair times can dramatically reduce costly downtime and delays. Smart retraction dampening technology which, in some instances can reduce cable retraction speed by up to 3m/s, can also not only increase safety but limit damage to the product and surroundings, thus minimising downtime and further maximising product lifespan.

By placing this philosophy of quality front-of-mind, standard and leading edge SRLs by MSA Safety incorporate several innovative features in the V-Series range that add value. By fabricating the outer casing in clear, engineering-grade plastic, it is easy to quickly inspect the drum and mechanism inside. For leading edge SRL products, an integrated roll cage protects housing when used in foot-level tie off. Internal components such as the cable, energy absorber and retraction dampener can be replaced on site – reducing maintenance and repair times and eliminating the need for holding backup devices. The energy-absorbing technology also requires no additional calibration or adjustment, whilst retraction dampening limits the cable speed protecting internal parts from wear and damage. ❖

For further information go to bit.ly/V-TECSRL

Firex Connect

Firex Connect 2021 showcased the latest solutions and technologies across the fire safety industry. Kentec, Securiton, AICO, Fireco and Polyseam spotlighted their most recent alarm and response systems. Matthew Hayhoe reports.

Image Credit: Kentec Electronics Ltd

"Kentec has actually been working on the ZXT range for in excess of three years... we've developed this product based on market requirements but also the reliability of the XT panel."

Derrick Hall, Kentec's director of sales

A SERIES OF Tech Talks at Firex Connect 2021 showcased the latest developments in the fire safety sector.

Kentec's Sigma ZXT

Kentec Electronics Ltd are an alarm control panel specialist, offering a comprehensive range of conventional, analogue addressable, and extinguishant control panels.

The company used Firex Connect 2021 to spotlight its Sigma ZXT module, a development of its earlier Sigma XT system.

Rather than replace the previous XT range, the new Sigma ZXT upgrades the existing portfolio and offers more advanced versions of the same system and equipment.

Sigma ZXT features an upgraded version of the status unit and indication unit, along with ancillary units to support the system such as buttons and indicators; all XT range modules and units are forward compatible with the new panels, so operators can pick and choose selected aspects of the new range to integrate into their operations.

Derrick Hall, Kentec's director of sales, explained, "Kentec has actually been working on the ZXT range for in excess of three years... we've developed this product based on market requirements but also the reliability of the XT panel."

The ZXT panel has been designed to prevent rapid extension of developing fires without the need for human intervention in premises of critical and high risk.

A dynamic LCD display on the panel opts for a colour-coded status report, providing users and engineers with a clear visual cue of which access level the alarm is sounding, which stage of alarm is sounding, and whether gas has been released from the associated

extinguishers.

Stage sounders can be manually reconfigured to operate as secondary extinguishing outputs to support the primary outputs. In doing so, the outputs are able to function in a shared or common mode, operating the same set of gas cylinders, or in an alternative mode over two sets of gas cylinders, providing further versatility to alarm systems.

In terms of the ZXT range's real-world applications, Derrick Hall explained, "One of the really big markets for us is energy storage solutions, combined with wind turbine facilities. That's a really exciting industry to be involved with, and the ZXT panel is a great product for that application.

"It seems that the world is moving towards green energy, and the demand for green energy is creating much bigger activity in the energy storage market. We've got customers all over the world that are anticipating the launch specifically for this application."

The systems are currently in soft launch/pilot testing phase with a number of pre-qualified customers, with a full launch expected in the coming months following test phase analysis.

Image Credit: Securiton

Securiton's FidesNet allows operators to connect up to 100 ASDs to the same network.

Securiton's FidesNet

Representatives from Securiton, a subsidiary of the Swiss Securitas Group, showcased their new FidesNet unit, the company's latest versatile fire detection system network.

Securiton's FidesNet unit utilises a 7-inch Remote Control Unit (RCU) along with a Network Communications Unit (NCU).

The combination of RCU and NCU allows the FidesNet sytstem to connect a maximum of 100 SecuriSmoke aspirating smoke detectors across the same network, and offers its operators decentralised access via up to 50 FidesControl remote control units, all connected to the same network and accessible via the FidesNet system.

FidesNet can operate across up to 1km of RS-485 cable, or can be connected via Ethernet to pair with building management systems.

The FidesNet's 7-inch display unit shows event urgency and actual smoke levels of all alerts and prompts, and suggests instant reset or isolation functions for all detectors if required. Trending views are also available to show the recent levels rof smoke up to five minutes in the past.

Pascal Hurni, Securiton's product manager, explained, "Typical use cases are access restriction. Everywhere a technician cannot enter, such as a chemical plant or airport, it's much easier to have all the information available on one screen.

"It's much easier and cheaper to have just one connection point."

Adrian Liechti, vice president of international sales, added, "Securiton has always been focused on heavy-duty applications, and what we were missing were certain solutions for extreme applications, be it humidity, water spray, heavy corrosive gases in agriculture.

"We needed a unit that was designed specifically for those very harsh environments- that was the reason we have developed the heavy-duty version, which is based on the standard model but with enhanced technologies."

Fireco's Insite

Pete Davies, business development manager at Fireco, showcased the company's software-based solution Insite. The remote monitoring software is designed to offer hardwired compliance for the company's wireless installations.

The new software utilises the cloud to deliver real-time device monitoring on an intuitive graphical user interface (GUI), optimised for any mobile device.

> "We can use software- and hardware-driven inputs and outputs... this allows us to be really creative with how Insite and our Pro range is used, (and) how they are actuated."
>
> **Pete Davies, business development manager at Fireco.**

With its connection based in cloud, the Insite system is URL-based, meaning there is no requirement for installation or software updates.

A user's entire network of Fireco's Pro range, including the Freedor Pro (which takes the weight out of heavy fire doors and allows it to be held at any angle) and Dorgrad Pro (which can connect to any system to automatically close fire doors upon alarm), can be connected and monitored via the system.

The system does not require an internet connection, but rather operates on a frequency of 433 to 434 band of MHz.

Of the system's cross-compatibility, Davies explained, "We can use software- and hardware-driven inputs and outputs to add a rafter functionality, ideal for integrating with other building management systems such as security, climate control and any number of other technologies.

"This allows us to be really creative with how Insite and our Pro range is used, how they are actuated, and what data we can put at your fingertips."

Firex Connect 2021 was held virtually from June 1-30 2021. ❖

Selecting flame retardant clothing

Flame retardant clothing is a must for workers who mayt be exposed to the hazards of fire, heat and flame. But how do you choose between FR treated fabrics and inherent FR fabrics?

"Flame retardant clothing is protective clothing meant for workers who are in need of clothing with limited flame spread properties."

Flame retardant clothing is essential for workers exposed to fire hazards.

Workers in industries such as oil and gas, metalworking and welding, construction and utilities are often exposed to the risk of fire, heat and flame. Flame retardant clothing is a must to protect against such hazards.

As described by supplier of industrial safety fabrics TenCate, "Flame retardant clothing is protective clothing meant for workers who are in need of clothing with limited flame spread properties, and where the user can be exposed to radiant or convective or contact heat, or to molten material splashes."

Flame retardant clothing can either be made with FR treated fabrics, or with FR inherent fabrics. In the case of the latter, the fire resistant properties are intrinsic to the fabric itself, or where at least one of the fibres used in that fabric has its own FR properties.

Inherent FR fabrics are most commonly made from yarns and fibres such as aramids, modacrylics and FR viscose. These provide very good protection against flames and heat, as they do not burn under normal air conditions of 21% oxygen and are self-extinguishing. Some of these fibres expand when exposed to heat or flame, thus increasing insulation. The higher the performance level of the fibre, the lower the weight needed to achieve a certain level of protection.

FR treated fabrics on the other hand, are usually based on cotton, blended with polyester, para-aramid or polyamide. These fabrics are generally less expensive to produce and are treated with a chemical at the end of the manufacturing process. This penetrates the fibre and is bonded throughout the entire fabric, making it fire retardant.

Each type has its own advantages and disadvantages. The choice will come down to a number of factors, such as the work environment and application, comfort, durability and sustainability, budget, and preference.

Advantages and disadvantages of inherent FR fabrics:

They offer very good heat and ARC protection, excellent colour

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

fastness even after several washes, and are typically lighter weight with excellent comfort levels. However they offer limited protection against molten metal splash and are typically more expensive than treated fabrics. They can be difficult to launder.

Advantages and disadvantages of FR treated fabrics:

They are comfortable, offer good value for money and offer very good protection against molten metal, good protection against heat and ARC, are relatively cheap and offer good value for money in dirty environments. However they generally have a shorter lifespan than FR inherent fabrics and can be heavier to achieve similar properties to inherent FR.

For further information see https://insights.tencatefabrics.com/fr-fabics-guide and https://www.carrington.co.uk/en/news-videos/latest-news/flame-retardant-fabrics-inherent-or-treated/

Carrington fabrics receive UL certification

Carrington has announced that six of its flame retardant fabrics have received approval by the North American safety certification company UL.

The UL is a global safety certification company that is approved to perform safety testing by the United States federal agency Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Carrington Textiles has received the RU status from UL under the category of "flame resistant clothing for protection of industrial personnel against short-duration thermal exposures from fire".

This new safety accreditation adds to the awarded NFPA 2112 Approval for these products, to offer fabrics that not only deliver extra protection against flash fire, but also comfort and great performance against electrostatic discharge, ultraviolet radiation, electric arc and chemical splash.

Delivering the comfort and moisture control of a 100% cotton fabric are Flameshield 230 and 280, popular products in the market for their lightweight, hardwearing properties and breathability.

Flametuff 220AS, 250AS and Satin 330AS offer the benefits of high content cotton in the blend, in addition to their high tenacity nylon composition to create a product that endures the test of time. These fabrics have excellent antistatic properties and ultraviolet protection of 50+ UPF.

Also providing great antistatic properties, as well as incorporating CORDURA technology for long lasting performance is Flametougher 280AS. This product represents Carrington Textiles' next generation of stronger, tougher and more hardwearing flame retardant workwear.

Being a favourite for the medium and heavy industry, Flameshield, Flametuff and Flametougher provide a top class low average predicted body burn, great colour fastness, shade consistency and the guarantee of being industrially launderable for the lifetime of the garment.

Paul Farrell, Carrington Textiles' sales & marketing director said,"As a globally trusted business in the textile industry, it's important for us to maintain our fabrics certified to the highest of standards."

The importance of

involving the safety team from the contract stage

Involving your safety team in your construction project from the very beginning can prevent safety issues from occuring at a later stage of the build, says James Omdahl, GoContractor.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

> "A safer workforce can perform their roles more effectively, and this can also help ensure that the project runs both on time and within budget."

ABOVE: *Having safety discussions at an early stage has a positive effect on worker safety.*

The construction process is usually divided into four distinct phases: planning, pre-construction, construction and close. The planning and contract phase is defined as the management of all activities involved prior to the commencement of actual work on site.

By including safety management in the earliest possible stages of planning and negotiation of a construction project, it is possible to prevent many safety issues from occurring during the build.

A safe construction project is a successful construction project

The success of any construction project relies on a variety of different factors. One of these is ensuring that all work is carried out safely, and that there is minimal risk of an accident or injury occurring during any stage of the project.

Studies have shown that including safety as a key topic of discussion in the contract stages of any construction project has a positive effect on worker safety. A safer workforce can perform their roles more effectively, and this can also help ensure that the project runs both on time and within budget – something which all project owners hope to achieve.

There are a number of actions that teams, including construction safety managers, can do to help eliminate issues that may occur during the contract stage and to improve overall health and safety on the project. These include:

- Developing a logistics plan prior to issuing bid documents

so that subcontractors can bid on a realistic process.
- Preventing commitment to unrealistic or unnecessary safety resource levels to win the project.
- Ensuring that the project owner clearly communicates safety expectations for the project for proper allocation of resources.
- Actively participating in the bidding process, often referred to as "putting it on the street".
- Making sure everyone understands the site rules, particularly relating to access, use of equipment and fire and emergency arrangements.
- Creating a checklist of common safety issues which will help contract managers and safety professionals to remember to include necessary items in the final contract.
- Updating boilerplate subcontract language to incorporate new safety regulations.
- Encouraging clients to test their spaces early for hazmat (asbestos, lead paint, contaminated soil). Remediation can derail a project's schedule and budget, so the sooner you find out, the better your options will be for handling it.
- Use your logistics plan to create a realistic budget for safety measures, such as temporary stairs, guardrails, or scaffolding.

Your safety team should comprehensively go through all documents and contracts at the very beginning of a project, before work has commenced. This gives them the opportunity to identify any safety concerns, raise them and ensure that they are appropriately addressed prior to the project starting.

Everyone on a construction site has a responsibility to prioritise safety.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

The importance of site history in safety planning

Site history is another thing to take into consideration in the planning and contract stage of any construction project. Depending on where you are building, there may be unusual features which could pose a potential hazard risk. For example:
- Asbestos or other contaminants
- Overhead power lines or underground services
- Unusual ground conditions
- Public right of way across the site
- Nearby roads, railways or footpaths
- Any other activities that could be going on near the site.

The project will be much more likely to run smoothly, efficiently and profitably if any site hazards have been properly predicted, planned for and included in the contract. Being unprepared for them could mean that it is necessary to halt work, wasting time and money.

Use the tools available to you

Everyone on a construction site has a responsibility to prioritise safety, but this is particularly true of the construction safety manager. Fortunately, there are tools available to make it easier for you to juggle the many different components of managing safety on a busy worksite, such as GoContractor.

> "There are tools available to make it easier for you to juggle the many different components of managing safety on a busy worksite, such as GoContractor."

GoContractor is a construction onboarding and safety training software that can streamline many aspects of site safety and compliance, including online training and site orientation; site access; worker compliance; and Covid-19 risk management. Implementing GoContractor at the start of any construction project is an ideal way to help ensure the highest levels of workforce safety before anyone even sets foot on site. ❖

Find out more about how GoContractor construction onboarding and safety training software can help you manage safety on your construction site by watching how it works, at https://get.gocontractor.com/get-a-demo

For further information about GoContractor, and further useful insights into construction safety, see www.gocontractor.com

Connecting workers

As MSA Safety is named as a preferred supplier of Royal Dutch Shell, and Blackline Safety signs a distribution agreement with Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC, strides are being made to connect workers with the latest gas detection solutions. Matthew Hayhoe reports.

Image Credit: MSA Safety

"This new agreement reflects the 360-degree approach MSA takes with regard to assessing worksite safety."

Bob Leenen, president of MSA's International Business segment.

The Safety io software can remotely monitor gas level readings in the workplace and track the safety of users.

As Innovation 1n connected worker solutions continues, MSA Safety and Blackline Safety have emerged as two sector leaders.

MSA Safety recently revealed its appointment as a preferred supplier for Royal Dutch Shell. The preferred supplier status plays into a three-year global framework agreement which will supply Shell with portable gas detection equipment and other connected worker safety solutions.

Bob Leenen, president of MSA's International Business segment, commented, "This new agreement reflects the 360-degree approach MSA takes with regard to assessing worksite safety. We look forward to this opportunity to continue strengthening our relationship with Shell and supporting their efforts and focus on workplace safety."

MSA's gas detection portfolio includes Safety io, a software service subsidiary, which will utilise wireless technology and cloud-based computing to enable a broad range of connected equipment.

Utilising MSA's gas detection products, the software will remotely monitor gas level readings in the workplace, track the safety of users, monitor unit maintenance status and notify workers of the need to evacuate in the case of emergency.

The Safety io software can be used alongside MSA's ALTAIR 5X detector. The unit can measure up to six gases simultaneously, and has recently been made available with an integrated photoionisation (PID) sensor for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) detection.

Driven by the company's XCell Sensor Technology, the unit offers faster response times and better stability than previous models.

Distribution agreement

Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC has recently announced a distribution agreement with Blackline Safety, securing its lineup G7 safety wearables.

The agreement will see Blackline's G7 range of products implemented in industries such as oil & gas and construction across the Middle East.

"Employees and workers are an integral part of any company and their safety is a top priority. Our tie-up with Blackline Safety will ensure that our clients get the best possible safety solutions for the well-being of their staff", said Mohsin Al Bahrani, CEO of Mohsin Haider Darwish ACERE.

Blackline Safety's G7 range of cellular- and satellite-connected safety wearables automatically connect to the Blackline Safety Cloud from the moment of power-up, allowing users to easily monitor the wellbeing of personnel. Should a noticeable incident occur, such as a gas leak, fall, downtime or injury, Blackline Safety's cloud-hosted emergency response management software makes it easy for a control room or Blackline's 24/7 Safety Operations Center to respond to incidents in seconds.

The G7 range's flagship model is the first direct-to-cloud area gas monitor, the G7 Exo. The G7 Exo was designed for instant use; setup takes a few minutes, with no mesh networks or Wi-Fi setup required. The unit's cellular capability includes coverage on 350 mobile networks across 100 countries worldwide, and maintains its connection to the Blackline Cloud to stream its data for automated reporting. If used beyond the reach of cellular networks, the Exo includes optional satellite connectivity.

Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC intend to implement Blackline's G7 range across a range of industries including oil & gas.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

The unit's battery lasts 100 days from a full charge.

The wireless equivalent of the G7 Exo monitor, the G7C wireless gas detector, offers 4G connectivity and integrated cellular communications, meaning it can stream bump test, calibration and usage data.

The unit has a choice of five different sensors with diffusors and pump options, to offer a versatile gas detection solution.

A more versatile model is offered with the G7X. The G7X offers an industrial-strength radio link to communicate with the portable G7 Bridge base station. Employees can work up to a mile away from the bridge without losing connectivity.

Outside of 3G-connected areas, the G7x automatically connects workers with live monitoring teams, assessing the situation and reporting whenever a gas leak, fall or health incident occur.

Along with the G7 bridge, the device can communicate via two-way text message, delivering critical insights to workers.

> "We are helping businesses elevate their safety programme through practical and easy to manage cloud-connected safety technologies."
>
> **Mohsin Al Bahrani, CEO of Mohsin Haider Darwish.**

The interchangeable and configurable cartridges means users can choose between standard (no gas), single-gas or quad-gas cartridge, and then select from a number of gas sensors including hydrogen sulfide, oxygen, carbon monoxide and combustible gases, with more currently in development.

The monitor's LCD system is readable in direct sunlight and backlit for low light conditions, with simple menus for navigable use in emergency situations.

These recent agreements and partnerships will see connected worker solutions grow all the more common across the Middle East. . ❖

Decontamination set for growth

The Middle East and Africa region is set to lead the way with up to 33% of the expected growth of the emergency eyewash and shower market over the next four years, according to a report from Technavio.

A new report published by Technavio suggests the emergency and showers market is set to continue neutral growth in the short-term as the industrial, logistical and economic impact of Covid-19 continues.

"One of the primary growth drivers for this market is the increasing availability of low-cost drench showers," explained a senior analyst for industry at Technavio.

The report encourages market vendors to focus on growth prospects in the fast-growing segments of the market, while maintaining positions in slower-growing areas of the market.

Looking ahead, Technavio predicts the emergency eyewash and showers (decontamination) market size to grow by approximately US$111.03mn in the period 2021-2025.

As a whole, the emergency eyewash and showers market is expected to deliver a year-over-year growth rate of 2.44%.

Analysis of the end-user unveiled the oil and gas segment as the maximum growth industry for the decontamination sector.

Worldwide deployment of emergency eyewash and showers, exploration of new oil and gas fields across MEA and increased investments in oil and gas production in the Middle East are expected to be the key aspects to shift growth in the decontamination market.

A regional analysis unveiled that a third of the market sector's growth (33%) is anticipated to originate from the MEA region.

Of this growth, the key markets are expected to be Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with a spike in oil and gas exploration and decontamination deployment expected across the region.

As well as being the key market for growth in the coming years, the Middle East and Africa is expected to experience faster growth of the decontamination market than other regions, putting it in good stead to continue industrial growth in the coming years. ❖

> "One of the primary growth drivers for this market is the increasing availability of low-cost drench showers."
>
> **Senior analyst, Technavio**

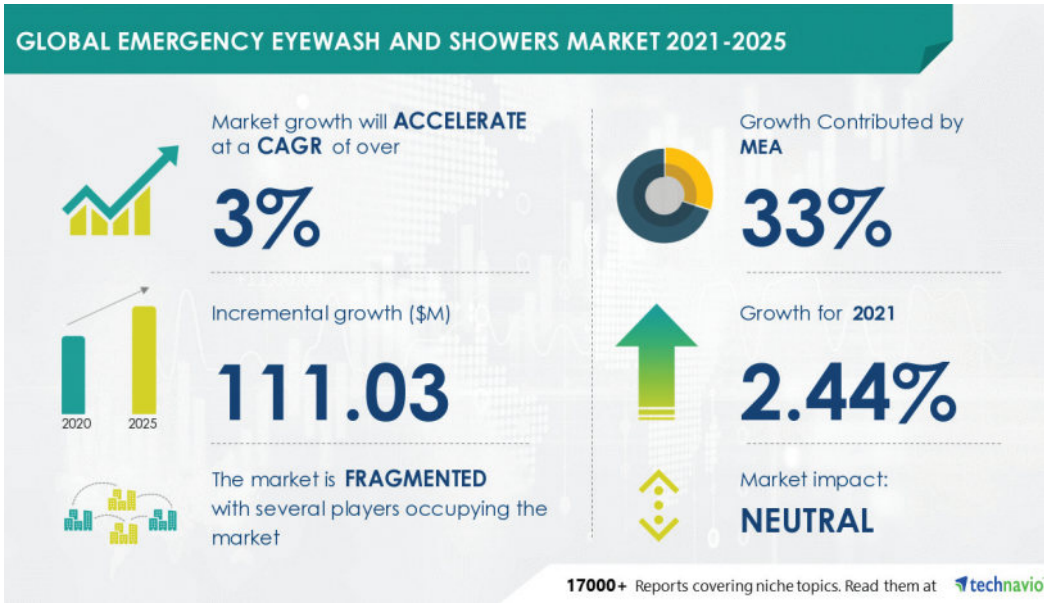


Image Credit: Technavio

The MEA is expected to drive market growth from 2021-2025.

Aqua Safety Showers introduces new safety shower chiller range

Aqua Safety Showers is a worldwide provider of Emergency Safety Showers and Eye Wash Stations for the Oil, Chemical, Gas and Utility industries. Its units operate in temperatures ranging between -55°C (-67°F) and +60°C (+140°F).

The company's comprehensive product range includes mains-fed and self-contained units, both suitable for indoor or outdoor use – even in remote or hazardous locations. Its safety showers are built from corrosion-resistant stainless steel and GRP, ensuring your asset has a long, fit-for-purpose life. Aqua Safety Showers also has the flexibility to adapt, modify or design bespoke units in its UK manufacturing facility. All products are designed to meet and exceed ANSI EN safety standards.

New safety shower chiller range

Aqua Safety Showers' new water chiller units are twice as efficient yet use half as much energy as previous models. Ideal for extreme heat (up to +55°C/+140°F), the water is cooled to 20°C, helping to reduce the growth of bacteria and eliminate the risk of scalding. Used with its self-contained tank shower, it guarantees more than 15 minutes of drench time without the need for a mains water supply. The new range is completely corrosion-resistant and also has an option for hazardous areas.

Contact Aqua Safety Showers International Ltd.
www.aqua-safety.com
sales@aqua-safety.com +44 (0) 1942 318096

Image Credit: Aqua Safety Showers

Aqua Safety Showers has launched a new safety shower chiller range.

Keeping the seas clean

Oil and waste spills can have disastrous consequences for local health, environment, wildlife and economies. Robert Daniels reports.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

> "The number of oil spills internationally has been in sharp decline since the 1970s."

ABOVE: Oil spills can have catastrophic health, environment and economic consequences.

As greater emphasis continues to be placed on environmental and humanitarian concerns, more technology and expertise has been dedicated to reducing the number of oil spills that occur around the world.

According to data maintained by ITOPF, the number of oil spills internationally has been in sharp decline since the 1970s, with decade averages of oil spills greater than seven tonnes falling from 78.8 at the end of 1980 to 6.3 with the closing of 2020.

While this is a statistic that should rightly be celebrated, this is not an area where complacency can be allowed to set in, as oil spills and general waste can cause immense damage to local wildlife, have adverse effects on communities such as crop and water contamination, not to mention the financial effects to the operator for the lost oil and resultant clean-up fine.

The disastrous effects caused by the MV Wakashio oil spill in Mauritius last year are still fresh in the memory, where more than 1,000 tonnes of oil leaked into the ocean after the bulk carrier vessel ran aground on coral reef. The fuel was a severe threat to the local marine ecosystem and a state of emergency was called after fears that the spill could threaten Mauritius' economy, food security and the health of citizens residing in the area.

According to UNCTAD, Mauritius could be entitled to approximately US$286mn in liability and compensation for the incident, although the case is ongoing.

Fairdeal Marine

Acknowledging the need for continued and consistent vigilance on this topic, Fujairah-based Fairdeal Marine has placed their environmental services at the heart of their business and, since their operations began in 1978, has accrued extensive experience preventing and dealing with oil spills and waste material around the Middle East.

To give a taste of some of the challenges pertaining in the region, the company outlined the problems posed by the straights of Hurmuz which include:

- Heavy traffic
- Illegal discharges and oil pollution from unknown resources
- Only a small percentage of passing vessels deliver their waste to existing reception facilities
- No enforcement of calling vessels to have an oil spill response contract with a local contractor (which will protect them in case of oil pollution)
- No enforcement of calling ships to deliver their oily wastewater to authorised reception facilities operations as per the MARPOL 73/78 Convention.

To tackle these issues and prevent/clean oil spills in the region, the company offers a range of oil spill response management solutions including spill response services, accredited training, management of recovered oily wastewater, customised hands-on drills and boats/tugs conversion to spill response operations.

Fairdeal also has its own marine waste reception facilities, including designed and converted classed floating reception and procession facilities, and has introduced NANO technology for waste processing and the safe disposal of remaining non harmful material, such as oily waste.

To ensure each challenge can be met rapidly, the company stresses the need to constantly explore new technologies to improve eco-friendly material collection and handling operations. For instance, Fairdeal is ready to introduce the Geochemical Active Clay Sediment (GACS) Technology, for waste treatment, to the Gulf Region.

> "The company stresses the need to constantly explore new technologies to improe eco-friendly material collection and handling operations."

The company also emphasises the importance of collaboration in these endeavours, as exemplified by their strategic, alliance with a team of inventors in Greece for field water and waste treatment.

For its services, Fairdeal has been presented with several awards including the environmental protection award of the Maritime Standards Awards 2020 and the winner of Best Service Provider – Marine award of the Shiptek2021.

OSRC 1 Diva U-Boom in the water.

Image Credit: Fairdeal Marine

Improving threat report analysis and action

David Grout, CTO EMEA for FIreEye and Yann Le Borgne, technical director for ThreatQuotient, provide advice on how to analyse a threat report and make it actionable.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

In a recent CyberSocial webcast, industry experts David Grout, CTO EMEA for FireEye and Yann Le Borgne, technical director for ThreatQuotient, helped listeners tackle this challenge. Using threat reports as an example of one type of published threat information, they responded to real-time polling results as they provided advice on how to analyse a threat report and make it actionable.

Here are five tips they shared.

1. Select the right sources of threat data for your organisation.

When polled, the audience reported using a well-balanced combination of sources of threat intelligence. They are on the right track, but David Grout explained that it is also important to identify the right sources for your organisation and collect threat reports from several different sources, as they provide different levels of content – strategic, operational and tactical. Figure out the who, what and when for consumption and use that for your metric for success when looking at acquisition.

Yann Le Borgne added that as open-source intelligence (OSINT) is free and easy to access, most organisations use it extensively. But organisations must also consider the trust and

reliability of sources. Yann explains that in a classical hierarchy, the highest level of trust comes from the intelligence you generate and receive from your close network and peers, and OSINT information is placed at the lowest level. Grout recommended using trust models such as the Admiralty System or NATO System which classifies information from A to F for reliability and from 1 to 6 for credibility, particularly for new sources that surface during times of crises or outbreaks. Applying this scale to threat intel helps to determine what to do with the data and reduces false positives and noise generated from non-validated and unconfirmed data.

2. Determine who will acquire the data.

In response to the next poll question, 25% of respondents said all groups have access to all threat intelligence sources. Grout explained that while it may be good to provide access to a broad audience, it is probably even better to have one team responsible for acquiring and analysing threat reports and only delivering information that is actionable. Not every stakeholder needs every level of intelligence.

Using the report on the Ryuk ransomware from the French National Agency for the Security of Information Systems (ANSSI) as an example, Le Borgne explained that to do this you need to determine how the same report will impact and be used by various teams across the organisation. Different teams may use different aspects of the same report in different ways to achieve their desired outcomes, for example modifying policy (strategic), launching hunting campaigns (operational) or disseminating technical indicators (tactical). A threat report that is in PDF format requires a lot of work to translate the information it contains into actionable data for different sets of users, which is why it is important to have a dedicated team acquire the data

3. Structure the data for analysis.

Le Borgne explained that the three steps for analysis include: understanding the context of report, the relevance of the report, and relating the report to any prior reports, intelligence and incidents. This process allows you to contextualise and prioritise intelligence, but requires that the data be structured uniformly. Threat data comes in various formats (e.g., STIX, MITRE ATT&CK techniques, news articles, blogs, tweets, security industry reports, indicators of compromise (IoCs) from threat feeds, GitHub repositories, Yara rules and Snort signatures) and needs to be normalised. The information you gather, in the Ryuk report for example, is expressed with their own vocabulary, and translating it into a machine-readable format is necessary to link it to other related reports and sources of information.

Grout added that it isn't just about format. The volume of information across the threat intel landscape is high, and different groups use different names to refer to the same thing. Normalisation compensates for this and enables you to aggregate and organise information quickly. Structuring data so that you can prioritise is critical for triage, and ensures you are focusing on the threats that matter most.

"Structuring data so that you can prioritise is critical for triage, and ensures you are focusing on the threats that matter most."

4. Use tools to help with analysis.

Le Borgne explained that the tools you use need to support your desired outcome. According to the poll, 67% of attendees are using technical ingestion (SIEM) which indicates that desired outcomes are more technical. And 15% are still handling the acquisition and analysis process manually. This is quite a challenge, particularly during a big event. A threat intelligence platform (TIP) does a good job of extracting context and can help you use the information in various ways for different use cases (e.g., alert triage, threat hunting, spear phishing, incident response) and to support different outcomes.

It is also important that the tool you select works well with frameworks like MITRE ATT&CK. Grout shared that MITRE is the most used framework to organise the analysis process. Customers are identifying their crown jewels and mapping to MITRE to understand which adversaries might target them, the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) to concentrate on, and what actions to take.

5. Select the right tools to help make data actionable.

Analysis enables prioritisation so you can determine the appropriate actions to take. There are a variety of tools to help make threat reports and other elements of your threat intelligence programme actionable and achieve desired outcomes at the strategic level (executive reporting), operational level (changes in security posture) and tactical level (updating rules and signatures).

In the final polling question, 45% of respondents said they are using a TIP to make the data actionable for detection and protection, but few are using a TIP for forensics. Le Borgne and Grout agreed this is a missed opportunity that teams should explore as their capabilities continue to mature. From a forensics standpoint, MITRE is an important tool to enable analysis of past incidents so organisations can learn and improve.

In closing, our experts recommend that before you start thinking about threat intelligence sources, analysis and actions, you need to understand the desired outcomes and deliverables for each of your constituents. It is a journey that typically starts at the tactical level and, with maturity, evolves to include operational and strategic intelligence to deliver additional value. When shared the right way with each part of the organisation, key stakeholders will see threat intelligence for the business enabler that it is, and the threat intelligence programme will gain support and the budget to grow. ❖

You can listen to the full discussion at https://threatq.wistia.com/medias/r2t7l8uwtk

Tank-fed safety showers deliver tepid water in hot climates without the need for power

Safety showers

The award-winning Hughes Zero Power Cooler® is a maintenance-free cooling system for emergency tank showers. It is designed to ensure the delivery of tepid water, as per ANSI Z358.1-2014 guidelines, even in the most challenging environments.

The system works in two phases whereby the night time ambient temperature is used to maintain the daytime temperature of the water.

No moving parts means expensive service options are a thing of the past, while the innovative sealed system allows users to simply fit and forget.

Visit www.hughes-safety.com and try the company's carbon calculator tool to determine your carbon savings based on retrofitting the Zero Power Cooling System versus traditional chillers.

Hughes Safety Showers is a leader in emergency safety shower, eye/face wash and decontamination equipment manufacturing.

The cooling system can deliver tepid water, even in the most challenging environments.

Hughes' rigorous approach to delivering high-quality products is evident throughout its manufacturing processes. The company is audited to ISO standards, namely 45001:2018, 14001:2015 and 9001:2015.

Logan installs safety cages

Offshore safety

Logan Industries, a hydraulic repair, manufacturing and rental company, has completed the design, fabrication and delivery of a set of safety cages to keep offshore technicians safe while inspecting subsea connectors on blowout preventer (BOP) stacks while on deck.

Logan's safety cage is designed to protect the safety of technicians working near the BOP, in the rare event that the load should accidentally drop. The safety cage is designed to absorb and stop a falling load of up to 450,000 lbs. Logan's engineering team used their engineering expertise to come in with a solution that makes the customer's operation more efficient and safer.

Logan engineered and manufactured the safety cage in its Hempstead, Texas, facility.

Dean Carey, technical director, Logan Industries, commented that the partnership demonstrates customers' trust in Logan's expertise in designing and engineering solutions for unique projects.

Ultrasound method for fire fighting foam tests

Marine safety

DNV has issued a verification statement allowing global survival technology specialist Survitec to use its fire foam testing process onbaord maritime vessels or offshore structures.

Survitec's new Produced Foam Live Test method uses ultrasound technology to verify the effectiveness of fire-fighting foam, according to IMO mandatory requirements. The ruling applies to any vessel or offshore strcutrue that has a deck foam system, a high expansion foam system (engine room) or heli-deck foam system.

The ratio of foam concentrate and seawater has to be correct for the produced foam to work. It is thought to be the first-time ultrasound technology has been used to quantify the exact foam/water ratio. Two ultrasonic flowmeters are used to compare both values.

Unlike existing techniques, the Survitec method allows testing to be performed while the vessel is berthed alongisde, without having to discharge any foam overboard or send samples to testing labs. Current test methods entail the heavy consumption of costly concentrates, and the produced foam is discharged overboard. Survitec's test does not need to use the concentrate or produce foam, using only seawater, making it more environmentally friendly than alternative solutions.

VIKING launches YouSafe jacket for offshore

Offshore safety

VIKING's new YouSafe Vanguard lifejacket has been designed with the day-to-day tasks and challenges of offshore workers in mind, targeting the oil and gas and wind energy markets. The product meets 275N offshore industry standards, and is SOLAS/MED-approved and CE/ISO-accredited.

Consultations between VIKING Life-Saving Equipment and its expanding portfolio of offshore clients has bought the new lifejacket to the offshore market, with new features overcoming longstanding safety challenges faced by offshore crews and maintenance personnel.

"Based on customer feedback, our designers continuously refine our safety products on the reality that if they are not worn correctly, they won't work correctly," said global product manager Bettina Kjaergaard.

Weight is redistributed away from the neck and shoulder area, in order to provide more space for mobility. The jacket also includes high-visibility colours to attract user attention to specific emergency features. A new webbing system has been adopted for easy and intuitive donning and a comfortable fit.

The lifejacket features new safety features specifically for offshore use.

"Staying at the forefront of lifejacket design depends on responding to specific market demands: The VIKING YouSafe Vanguard demonstrates our awareness of the tasks offshore crews face over extended periods at sea," continued Kjaergaard.

Along with SOLAS compliance, the jacket includes front and back inspection windows with single point indicators on inflator readiness, conforming to the EU's latest directive on PPE.

Every lifejacket is supplied with its own digital identifier, allowing VIKING to offer full track and trace capability and to maintain up-to-date records for servicing and replacement.

New fall system for working at height

Fire safety

A new industrial safety system by Salunda Limited is providing improved location and protection of people working at height in the 'red zone' in the offshore oil and gas drilling sector.

Providing the latest in high performance real-time tracking capabilities, the Crew Hawk Fall Protect system tracks the location of people working at height on rig derricks, ensuring that their PPE harnesses are correctly secured to a fall arrest hook prior to entering the monkey board and fingerboard zones.

Crew Hawk Fall Protect features a compact, robust and safe wearable tracking device and unobtrusive harness mount that attaches easily to the chest strap to detect the presence of appropriate PPE. A hook tag is connected to confirm that the harness is secured safely to the fall arrest hook, an audio and visual alarm will sound if it is not and the operative will not be able to move to working areas at height without permission until they are safely connected.

Ring announces end-to-end video encryption worldwide

Security

Home security company Ring has launched the cloud encryption option worldwide after a successful technical preview across the United States last year, with the feature now available to eligible devices via the Control Centre of the Ring app.

Previously, Ring encrypted customer videos following their upload to the cloud, and stored on Ring's servers. Eligible Ring devices will now encrypt their videos at both ends, prior to arrival on Ring servers. The advanced security option offers additional peace of mind and protection.

Along with the end-to-end encryption, customers can also add a compatible authenticator app (alongside SMS authentication) as their second method of verification when logging into Ring accounts. The company is also testing CAPTCHA in the Ring and Neighbors apps as another safeguard against false login attempts.

Josh Roth, CTO at Ring, explained, "We're always looking at how we can continue to innovate for our customers, and security and privacy sit at the core of that. We build privacy and security into the process – designing our devices and services with these pillars front of mind, while putting our customers in control."

Ring will also be launching an automated self-service process to allow customers to securely transfer ownership of second-hand Ring devices without having to make a call to their customer support team.

Ion Shield launches Smart Sterilization Gate

Infection control

Ion Shield, in partnership with Soghan Energy, has brought Smart Sterilization Gate, a chemical-free access point solution that combats the spread of infectious diseases, to market.

Designed and manufactured in the UAE, the Smart Sterilization Gate uses artificial intelligence-enabled thermal imaging and chemical-free ionisation technology that provides touch-free, instant disinfection. It is a significant development for the UAE's facilities of public transport, aviation, education and events.

Commenting on its release, Nasser Lootah, deputy chief executive officer at Soghan Energy, explained, "This innovative product is in line with the vision to improve the well-being and maintain a high quality of life for people in the UAE. We are proud to support local initiatives that make a difference in people's lives, and help us return to normalcy."

Image Credit: Ion Shield

The Smart Sterilization Gate uses AI-enabled thermal imaging and chemical-free ionisation technology to provide instant disinfection.

As the user walks towards the gate, infra-red thermal imaging checks their temperature and automatically alerts security in the event of it being too high. Stepping into the gate, instant sterilisation technology creates a dense field of charged air ions that are found naturally. These instantly attach to viruses and bacteria, making them ineffective and too heavy to remain airborne and they drop to the floor. This process occurs as the person walks through the gate, which purifies and provides clean air to the surroundings.

With the development of the Ion Shield Smart Sterilization Gate, the UAE is showing leadership in exploring innovative technologies in new ways that could assist in the battle against the impacts of Covid-19 and other outbreaks in future.

Ion Shield is developing other new applications based on medically proven disinfection and sterilisation technologies for businesses and households.

Natural fire extinguishers launched

Fire safety

Siemens Smart Infrastructure has introduced its new natural agent fire extinguishing portfolio, Sinorix NXN. Focusing on the protection of lives, assets and business continuity, the new portfolio combines simplicity with advanced technology to modernise traditional fire safety. The agents consist of the natural gases argon, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. They are ideal for specific application areas such as storage rooms for chemicals (argon), critical electrical infrastructure (nitrogen) or unmanned areas (carbon dioxide). The new portfolio uses only agents and compounds that are found in the atmosphere and do not harm the environment.

The extinguishing systems are developed for easy integration in complete fire safety solutions, including fire detection and evacuation, to increase safety and reduce risks. This integration also optimises facility management by enabling cloud-based, digital services that reduce operational and maintenance costs.

FireEye launches platform to strengthen threat detection and response

Cyber security

FireEye, Inc., the intelligence-led security company, has introduced FireEye XDR, a unified platform designed to help security management and operations teams strengthen threat detection, accelerate response capabilities, and simplify investigations.

The FireEye XDR platform provides native security protections for Endpoint, Network, Email, and Cloud with a focus on improving organisations' capabilities for controlling incidents from detection to response.

FireEye Helix unifies the security operations platform by providing next-generation security incident and event management (SIEM), security orchestration, automation and response (SOAR), and correlation capabilities along with threat intelligence powered by Mandiant.

"I believe we manage the best XDR platform in business by integrating threat intelligence into an advanced detection engine which is delivered centrally via the cloud," said Bryan Palma, EVP of FireEye Products.

"Our XDR platform translates insight to action across more than 600 security technologies. FireEye XDR furthers our mission to relentlessly protect our customers."

FireEye's XDR platform is best suited for enterprise and small- to mid-market security operations teams that are increasingly at risk from cyber attacks such as malware, denial of service and password attacks.

Bosch launches Flexidome IP starlight 8000i X series

Security

Launched in UAE, the new Flexidome IP starlight 8000i X series offers two or four megapixel resolution, custom optics, next-level HDR (high dynamic range) X, and starlight X for enhanced image quality.

The new starlight X technology helps to significantly improve image capture during the day and excels in near-dark scenes due to its custom optics, Bosch advanced image processing algorithms, and noise suppression. HDR X enables the cameras to optimise video capture in scenes with fast-moving objects with a dynamic range up to 144 dB, ensuring perfect exposure regardless of challenging lighting conditions while reducing motion-related artefacts and blur in the daytime. The camera's new 1/1.8 inch sensor further improves image quality across all light levels.

The new X series extends the outdoor fixed camera portfolio of the Flexidome IP starlight 8000i family by delivering an ideal mix of resolution, light sensitivity, dynamic range, frame rate, custom optics, and built-in AI. Thanks to their robust, water- and dust-resistant design with an IP66 and IP6K9K rating and vandal-resistant IK10+ housing, typical applications include manufacturing, public sector and transportation. The cameras can withstand temperatures ranging from -50 to +60°C (-8 to +140°F). Their high-quality, dual-layer coating also protects against corrosion.

Image Credit: Bosch

The new starlight X technology helps to significantly improve image capture during the day.

The new cameras also feature Bosch remote device management, a combination of tools such as project assistant and configuration manager and services for secure, transparent, and cost-effective device management throughout a product's life. The innovative remote wireless configuration and commissioning functionality of the Flexidome IP starlight 8000i range enables installers to work smarter while onsite.

DB demonstrates at Medlab Middle East

Medical Technology

The Dubai Branch of BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a leading global medical technology company, brought its latest innovations to Medlab Middle East, the region's renowned medical laboratory exhibition which took place from 21-24 June 2021.

Maher Elhassan, vice-president and general manager, BD Middle East, North Africa & Turkey, said, "Our participation at Medlab Middle East reiterates the company's efforts to support the region's healthcare sector with our latest innovations that deliver on patient care, safety, diagnostic accuracy, automation and more."

During Medlab, the company showcased their latest MedTech innovations such as rapid diagnostic testing solutions to enable caregivers to perform a high number of tests quickly; advanced informatics and integrated diagnostics to enhance testing and automate workflows; cutting-edge solutions for microbiology testing; as well as microbiology automation.

SaveMoneyCutCarbon and Vyv release antimicrobial LED technology

Health Technology

SaveMoneyCutCarbon has partnered with Vyv, the USA-based health-tech company, to bring an antimicrobial LED technology (405nm), that inactivates and kills viruses on the surface of material things.

Tests conducted by independent laboratories show that Vyv's 405nm UV-free light LEDs are effective against viruses as well as bacteria, mould, fungi and yeast on surfaces.

This lighting will provide powerful benefits for construction companies who want to create a safer environment.

A further independent pre-publication study into 405 nm visible light, demonstrated compelling results destroying SARS-CoV-2 at light levels that could be expected in an overhead lighting situation.

This second study demonstrates efficacy results using ranges of light in the 400-420nm range on inactivating enveloped viruses.

Areas where Vyv lighting can bring continuous antimicrobial protection include: offices, hospitals, gyms, doctors' surgeries, schools, care homes and hospices, universities, colleges, private medical centres, hotels, food production plants, restaurants, indoor agriculture, venues and public transport.

Colleen Costello, Vyv CEO and co-founder, explained, "The recent findings of enhanced efficacy against viruses greatly expands the antimicrobial impact delivered to spaces currently protected with Vyv technology, as well as in new spaces."

أية مشكلة محتملة من حيث فقدان البيانات وهو بالتأكيد تغيير سيظل مستمرا في المستقبل».

ويرى مويانو أن التغيير الكبير على وشك الحدوث، ذلك لأن الصناعة بدأت تميل نحو الحلول الأكثر صداقة للبيئة، والتي تشمل الحلول الرقمية المدمجة مع أنظمة إخماد الحرائق. ولطالما كانت شركة جونسون كونترولز رائدة في مجال الابتكارات. وأكد مويانو أنه حريص على الحفاظ على هذه السمعة. وقال: «على مدى السنوات القليلة الماضية، بما في ذلك عام 2020 عندما شهد العالم ذروة الجائحة الأولى، قدمت الشركة العديد من الحلول الجديدة لصناعة الحماية من الحرائق. ومن الأمثلة على ذلك إدخال رغوة غير مفلورة لحماية البيئة دون المساس بالأداء، ونظام LVS الجديد غير المفلور المستخدم لحماية المركبات الثقيلة في المناجم أو المركبات المتنقلة في المطارات والموانئ؛ ورشاشات ESFR34 الجديدة لتطبيقات التخزين. هذا بالإضافة إلى فوهات TN17 وTN25 لحماية نفق السيارة، ونظام منع مخاطر الليثيوم أيون لحماية أنظمة تخزين الطاقة باستخدام بطاريات الليثيوم أيون. أضف إلى ذلك ميزة المراقبة الفريدة للحريق المتصل – مراقبة الحاويات لأنظمة إخماد الغاز، حيث يتيح استخدام إنترنت الأشياء للمستخدم النهائي مراقبة حالة النظام عن بُعد وعبر استخدام تطبيق الهاتف المحمول».

أساسيات الحماية من الحرائق

هناك خمسة أنواع مختلفة من الحرائق التي حددتها الرابطة الوطنية للحماية من الحرائق، وفي بعض الأحيان توجد حلول مختلفة لحماية نفس نوع الحريق. وهناك العديد من المتغيرات في اختيار الحلول الصحيحة، ولكن بشكل عام يمكننا القول:

الفئة أ: المواد الصلبة

الحرائق العرضية الأكثر شيوعا والتي يتم مواجهتها في الصناعات التي تتميز بمواد قابلة للاحتراق مثل الخشب والقماش والورق والمطاط وما إلى ذلك، والتي غالبا ما تنبعث منها غازات ضارة.

الحلول النموذجية: الحلول القائمة على الماء والمواد الكيميائية الجافة وبعض المواد الغازية المستخدمة ورذاذ الماء والرغوة.

الفئة ب: السوائل والغازات القابلة للاشتعال

غالبا ما يصعب السيطرة على هذه الحرائق، ويمكن أن تنتشر بسرعة في كثير من الأحيان ويمكن أن تعاود الاشتعال حتى بعد إطفاء النيران. وتحدث بسبب السوائل والغازات القابلة للاشتعال مثل البنزين والقطران والزيوت والمذيبات والكحول، وما إلى ذلك.

الحلول النموذجية: الرغوة والمواد الكيميائية الجافة والمواد الغازية (اعتمادا على السائل أو الغاز القابل للاشتعال للحماية) ورذاذ الماء.

الفئة ج: الحرائق الكهربائية

تتضمن هذه الفئة المعدات الكهربائية النشطة مثل أجهزة الكمبيوتر ومراكز البيانات والمولدات وما إلى ذلك، والتي غالبا ما تنتج عن شرارة أو زيادة الطاقة أو ماس كهربائي، وغالبا ما تحدث في أماكن يصعب الوصول إليها ورؤيتها.

الحلول النموذجية: إزالة مصدر الطاقة وتحويل الحريق إلى الفئة أ، وعوامل إخماد الحرائق الغازية.

الفئة د: حرائق المعادن

حرائق المعادن القابلة للاشتعال مثل المغنيسيوم والتيتانيوم والزركونيوم والصوديوم والليثيوم والبوتاسيوم.

الحلول النموذجية: الكيماويات الجافة الخاصة.

الفئة ك: الشحوم / زيوت الطبخ

الحرائق التي تشتمل على زيت الطهي والدهون والتي تشتعل في درجات حرارة عالية مما يجعل من الصعب إخمادها.

الحلول النموذجية: العوامل الكيميائية الرطبة.

حلول الحماية من الحرائق

الماء: مورد غير محدود وهو التطبيق الأكثر شيوعا في جميع أنحاء العالم ويتحكم / يطفئ الحريق عن طريق التبريد. وتعتبر الرشاشات أكثر التطبيقات شيوعا ويتم استخدام فوهات الرش عند الحاجة، كما أصبح رذاذ الماء شائعا بشكل متزايد في بعض التطبيقات والاستخدامات.

رذاذ الماء: الماء المستخدم في ضغط منخفض / متوسط / مرتفع لتوليد «رذاذ» (ماء أقل من 1 مم). وتشمل التطبيقات النموذجية مساحات الماكينات ومراكز البيانات والمقالي الصناعية والمزيد.

ثاني أكسيد الكربون: أحد أقدم العوامل المستخدمة في الصناعة ومتوفر بكثرة في الغلاف الجوي مما يجعله غير مكلف إطلاقا. وتشمل التطبيقات النموذجية التصنيع وتصنيع الفحم والتوربينات والمولدات والتطبيقات التجارية.

يجب استخدامه بحذر لأنه قاتل للإنسان عند تركيزات إطفاء الحريق.

المواد الكيميائية الجافة: يمكن استخدامها في جميع فئات الحريق تقريبا (وليس الفئة ك). ويشيع استخدامها في طفايات الحريق وفي مرافق الزيت والغاز والمنتجات البترولية، ويمكن استخدامها في المعدات الأكبر بما في ذلك بعض التطبيقات التي تتطلب «أنظمة كيميائية جافة كبيرة ثابتة».

المواد الكيميائية الرطبة: أفضل عامل للشحوم وزيوت الطبخ، لذا فهي الخيار المفضل للأنظمة في المطابخ التجارية. وتتوفر أيضا طفايات الحريق التي تحتوي على مواد كيميائية رطبة كاحتياطي.

العوامل النظيفة: لا تترك بقايا بعد التفريغ، وبذلك نتجنب تعطل العمل وهي آمنة على الأفراد، وفعالة جدا في حرائق (الفئات أ، ب، ج). وعادة ما تُستخدم المواد الغازية التي تستخدم عوامل نظيفة في مراكز البيانات وغرف التحكم وغرف التبديل وأماكن الآلات وما إلى ذلك.

الرغوة: يتم إنتاجها باستخدام مركزات الرغوة والماء والهواء، ولها العديد من الحلول لتطبيقات مختلفة بما في ذلك منصات الطائرات العمودية وخزانات التخزين والمولدات الاحتياطية.

مفكرة الفعاليات 2021

سبتمبر/أيلول			
28 ـ 29	معرض الأمن الدولي	لندن	www.internationalsecurityexpo.com
أكتوبر/تشرين الأول			
26 ـ 29	معرض معدات السلامة والصحة في مكان العمل ـ A+A 2021	دوسلدورف	www.aplusa-online.com
نوفمبر/تشرين الثاني			
1 ـ 3	معرض معدات مكافحة الحرائق ـ IFSEC FIREX 2021	القاهرة	www.ifsecandfirexegpt.com
15 ـ 18	معرض ومؤتمر أبوظبي الدولي للبترول ـ أديبك	أبوظبي	www.adipec.com

جهاز سافاير الصوتي 0,75 مع الفوهات 1,5 بوصة من جونسون كونترولز

الحماية من الحرائق في منطقة الشرق الأوسط

مع محاولة العالم التعافي من آثار الجائحة، انتعش سوق الحماية من الحرائق بصورة كبيرة بسبب الوعي المتزايد والمستمر بأهمية السلامة من الحرائق، والمعايير الأكثر صرامة التي تقوم السلطات التنظيمية المختلفة بفرضها، والاستخدام المتزايد للإلكترونيات في العمليات الصناعية والتركيز الأكبر الذي سببه فيروس كورونا المستجد (كوفيد19-) على الصحة والسلامة بشكل عام.

ويتماشى الشرق الأوسط والذي ما فتئ يرفع معايير السلامة الخاصة به بشكل مطرد عبر العقود القليلة الماضية مع هذا الاتجاه، وهذا ما برز من خلال تقرير حديث صادر عن شركة 6Wresearch يشير إلى أن سوق معدات وأنظمة السلامة من الحرائق في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وتركيا وإفريقيا من المقرر أن ينمو بمعدل نمو سنوي مركب قدره 4,4 في المائة في الفترة ما بين عام 2020 وعام 2026. وسيعزز ذلك حقيقة أن المنطقة تقود عملية الخروج من عمليات الإغلاق، وحقيقة أن إنشاء عدد من المؤسسات والشركات التجارية الكبيرة سيولد طلبا كبيرا على معدات السلامة من الحرائق.

جونسون كونترولز

لفهم المزيد عن أنظمة السلامة من الحرائق والاتجاهات السائدة في المنطقة، تحدثت هيئة الإشراف على الصحة والسلامة والأمن في الشرق الأوسط إلى خابيير مويانو وهو مدير تطوير الأعمال في الشرق الأوسط وأفريقيا بشركة جونسون كونترولز والذي أشار إلى أن «باستثناء عدد قليل من البلدان، يعتبر سوق الشرق الأوسط دائما سوقا ملتزما بالتشريعات والقوانين المطبقة على أنظمة السلامة ومكافحة الحرائق». وتتمتع السلطات المختلفة بالاختصاص القضائي لتطبيق لوائحها من أجل الحفاظ على معايير السلامة على مستوى عالٍ، وطلب استخدام موافقات وقوائم الجهات الخارجية الدولية من أجل التمكن من استيراد / تسويق حل مناسب في السوق. ويوفر استخدام موافقات الطرف الثالث - المعترف بها - الراحة المطلوبة، مع العلم أن نظام مكافحة الحرائق قد اجتاز سلسلة من الاختبارات وفقا للمعايير وبروتوكولات الاختبار التي تغطي أكثر السيناريوهات أهمية. ويعتبر تطبيق بعض البلدان للوائح أكثر صرامة أمرا إيجابيا. ذلك لأنه يساعد على ضمان أعلى مستويات السلامة والحماية من الحرائق».

وبالانتقال إلى اتجاهات الصناعة الناشئة في المنطقة، ذكر مويانو أن الصناعة طورت حلولا تغطي متطلبات السلامة، وحافظت على تحديثها بحيث أحدث التقنيات المتاحة. فعلى سبيل المثال، أوضح مويانو قائلا: «لقد تم استخدام الحلول الصوتية لتطبيقات مركز البيانات (فمن المهم حماية البيانات المخزنة في الأقراص الصلبة جنبا إلى جنب المعدات). فقد لوحظ أن أنظمة الحماية من الحرائق باستخدام الغاز المضغوط تسببت في حدوث مشكلات تتعلق بتأثيرات الضوضاء على الأقراص الصلبة، والتي أصبحت أكثر حساسية بسبب زيادة سعتها التخزينية. وبالتالي، فإن استخدام الفوهات الصوتية مع أنظمة الغازات المضغوطة يقلل من

في هذا العدد ...

المحررة: لويز ووترز – بريد إلكتروني: louise.waters@alaincharles.com

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مدير مبيعات المجلة: ريتشارد روزيلار

هاتف : +442078347676 - فاكس : +442079730076

بريد إلكتروني: richard.rozelaar@alaincharles.com

المكتب الرئيسي:

Alain Charles Publishing Ltd, University House, 11- 13 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EX, UK

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التصميم والإخراج الفني : محمد مسلم النجار – بريد إلكتروني: alnajjar722@gmail.com

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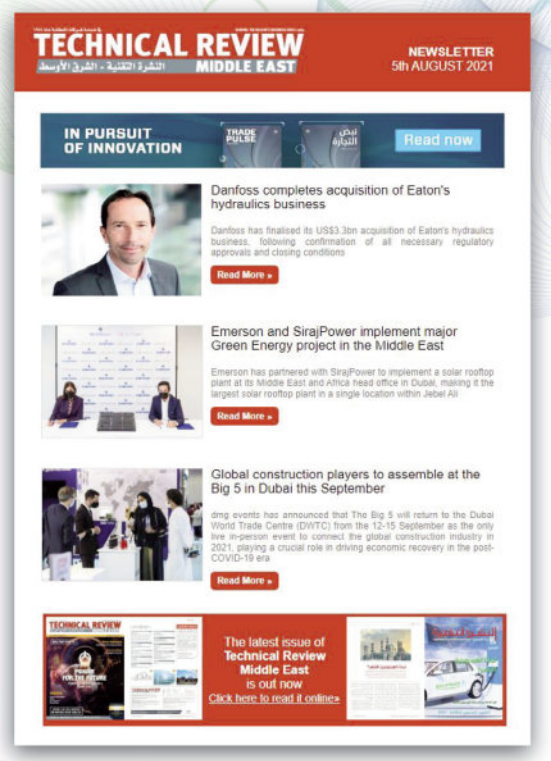

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