

Protecting people and property A guide to local application fire-suppression systems

In seeking to protect critical business assets from fires, sometimes less is more.

The aim with local application firesuppression systems is to contain fires to smaller areas of sites using targeted technology. This means whole rooms or areas do not have to be flooded with a fire-suppression agent when a blaze breaks out.

In addition to preventing widespread damage to a site, these systems minimise operational downtime and allow businesses and employees to get back to work.

The technology – which protects everything from people and property to data and equipment – is a proven way to safeguard micro-environments and any associated assets.

Fast-acting, easy to install

Specifically designed to combat special hazards, local application fire-suppression systems use self-activating technology that reliably detects and extinguishes fires within seconds.

Crucially, they are triggered before sprinkler systems are activated, which limits any flooding damage.

They are pneumatically actuated, pre-engineered systems which are ideal for small enclosures and local risks. Simple to install, they are usually placed in or near an enclosed area which is a likely source of a fire and where high-value assets are located.

Renowned as a cost-effective solution requiring minimal maintenance, local application systems are available in indirect and direct configurations depending on the application and clients' needs. Such automatic fire-suppression systems are especially suited to micro-environments such as such as equipment, machines, vehicles, or storage compartments.

Typical applications include:

Electrical switchboards
Server cabinets
Plant and mobile equipment
CNC machines
Engine compartments.

Minimises damage, cuts downtime

Local application fire-suppression systems use a sensor tube pressurised with dry nitrogen that reliably detects a fire.

When the tubing is exposed to heat or fire, it ruptures at the hottest point. The resulting loss of pressure activates the system, with the extinguishing agent being discharged and putting out the fire.

The extinguishing agent reaches 95% agent concentration level in less than 10 seconds for clean agent extinguishing agents, and in less than 60 seconds for carbon dioxide or inert gases. This rapid reaction minimises damage to enclosed areas and any repair downtime.

As the sensor tubing is flexible, it can easily be installed inside machines and enclosures, or directly among circuitry and mechanics. The tubing can be retrofitted to provide superior protection.



Clean agent extinguishing agents reach 95% agent concentration level in less than 10 seconds



KEY FEATURES AND ADVANTAGES

A range of extinguishing agents can be used with local application fire-suppression systems, depending on the application. They have a proven record for delivering the following benefits:

- Linear detection line
- Rapid reaction time
- Ready for use 24 hours a day
- No need for external power supply or third-party input
- ✓ Flexibility with the positioning of tubing
- Minimal maintenance required
- No accidental discharges through disruption of the electronic fire detector
- ✓ Suitable for use in most environments
- Ideal for low and high-pressure applications
- Not affected by vibration or knocks
- Quick and simple installation
- Cheaper than many alternative solutions.

In addition to protecting properties and reducing business downtime as a result of serious fires, the defining feature of local application fire-suppression systems is that they safeguard people from the potentially devastating impact of fires that spread beyond the source area.

As such, they should be part of any business's efforts to mitigate fire risks.

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