

CASE STUDY: Basement (Restricted Access area)

The Building:

Built in 1925, this sports centre in Birmingham, UK, has been recently modernised but yet maintains its period wood panelling and art-deco styling. The centre houses a sports hall, swimming pool, gym, as well as various other rooms for dance and other activities.

The facilities to support these activities are located in the basement, which has hazards of low ceilings, cable trays suspended from the ceilings, and restricted spaces. The fire protection in this basement is provided by Wagner ASD systems and point heat detectors.

The Challenge:

Access to this restricted area means a Health and Safety induction, and test and maintenance engineers must not work alone. There is also the greater challenge of conducting a repeatable test to ensure the performance of the ASD system does not change outside pre-determined limits over time.

The challenge was to provide a repeatable test method for difficult to access ASD systems (and also point detectors as they work on the same principle), that could then be rolled out to the other systems around the building. The other locations include the sports hall with soft flooring but with the ASD pipe at a height of about 14 metres, and lift shafts in buildings across the university campus.

The Solution:

Scorpion[®] was chosen as it provides it provides a repeatable functional smoke test that helps access the performance of the ASD system using the in-built transport timer. The smoke generator was mounted at the end of the ASD pipe (or alongside a point smoke detector) and cabled back to the control panel fixed in a convenient and readily accessible location, ideally next to the fire panel outside the restricted area.

The installation was completed within minutes and gave repeatable transport time measurements. This proved the integrity of the pipe and monitoring system as the smoke travelled along a number of sharp 90° bends and one T-junction.

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