

Emerson's Smart Wireless Network Monitors Eye Wash and Safety Shower Stations to Improve Safety at Boise Inc. Paper Mill

BENEFITS

- Wireless monitoring delivers real-time data to plant operators with 60 percent installed cost savings compared to wired technology
- Boise Inc. has enhanced safety response capability
- The switches and Smart Wireless Gateway were easy to install and commission



CHALLENGE

Prior to utilizing Emerson's Smart Wireless solution, Boise did not have a monitoring network for its safety stations and instead relied upon individual radio communications to alert the control room. The plant has numerous people at the mill – including drivers who unload chemicals who don't have an avenue to directly communicate with the operators. Boise looked into installing a wired network monitoring system, but the estimated cost to use hard-wired monitors made it cost-prohibitive.

SOLUTION

Rosemount® wireless discrete transmitters were placed on eight eye wash and safety shower stations at the mill. When one of the stations is turned on, the wireless device in the self-organizing Smart Wireless field network immediately communicates with the mill's operating system to activate an alarm in the facility's control room. This allows operators to quickly dispatch assistance to the station and investigate for possible injuries.

RESULTS

Boise Inc. has enhanced safety response capability by implementing Smart Wireless products to monitor its eye wash and safety shower stations. By installing a wireless network instead of a traditional wired network, Boise was able to save about 60 percent in installation costs.

The switches and Smart Wireless Gateway were easy to install and commission. Some of the switches are as far as 200 feet from the gateway. The gateway interfaces with an OPC server, which delivers reliable data to the mill's operating system. The robust wireless network monitors the switches every 15 seconds.

“Because we have established this wireless network infrastructure, we anticipate that for low cost we can easily add additional transmitters at our mill for use with other applications.”

Jeff Taylor
Boise Inc.