

New Age Fire Safety Systems to Ensure Utmost Safety in Commercial Spaces



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Fire related outbreaks in commercial spaces amount to huge risks for continuity of businesses and operations. Fires often cause disruption of business activities, loss of business documents, unproductive employee work hours, and liability claims resulting from the spread of fire to adjacent properties. According to national data, there was a 300 per cent increase in cases of fire incidents in commercial buildings between 2014 and 2015 in India. In the year 2018, Mumbai city alone combatted 12 major fire outbreaks in prominent commercial locations resulting in massive loss of property that was worth crores. Along with property, there were a total of 22 deaths due to the fires. The cause of most fires is due to loose wiring or poor maintenance of electrical bearings in a building. Over time, the equipment gets corroded and outdated resulting in fires. Other factors such as alternating voltage and electric spark, and overheating of electronic equipment are also believed to be the prime causes for fire outbreaks in the incidents.

However, all the causes of fires are preventable by implementing simple security solutions and upgrading the detection services. Detection is the first step to fire safety. Commercial spaces must invest in solutions like fire alarms which help them detect small triggers which can result in a major fire. Controlling fire at the source of origin is the quickest way to prevent its spread

and resulting loss in property. By installing an effective and reliable automatic fire detection system, linked to an effective fire warning system can allow people to reassess the degree of structural fire protection. Another way to detect fires is by conducting audits that help to identify the areas for improvement in fire safety measures in fire detection, prevention and mitigation systems. Audits also helps to understand the right detection methods required to install as per the spaces requirement. With emerging economies and growing construction of commercial spaces, there is an urgent need for improving fire safety solutions. The global fire safety equipment market size is anticipated to expand at a CAGR of 8.8% from 2019 to 2025. With the growing market, the biggest trends in the fire safety equipment market are -

- With the improvement of the sensors' capabilities and communication channel technology, IoT devices present in industries and residential spaces have boosted the adoption of new-tech fire safety solutions. Internet of Things can help to detect fire before they emit smoke and they also help in monitoring other surveillance systems to help control collateral damage. Real time surveillance data can also be used to intimate concerned people of an incident without any time lapse
- Installation of automatic fire detection systems in commercial establishment can prevent smokes and fires. For instances, a heat detector may function better than a smoke detector in a fume-laden or dusty environment. Automatic fire detectors or smoke alarms reduces manual intervention to raise a fire warning, and this will be essential in the majority of workplaces
- Advanced fire alarms today are equipped with individual smoke detector sensitivity adjustment and drift compensation. Wireless smoke detector systems are rapidly gaining popularity. The smoke detector market is set to reach from USD 1.31 billion in 2017 to USD 2.52 billion by 2022, at a CAGR of 9.2% during the forecast period.
- Fire safety systems will be software-based. With the help of this evolution, there will be minimum dependency on equipment suppliers and premises will only need to train one or two programmers. This will help in real time surveillance and reduce human interference

- While developing technologies help in improving the market, another trend that most developing countries are imbibing is the need to implement stringent regulations and mandate the installation of fire safety systems at industrial and commercial places that help to detect fires and smokes well in time
- Fires also result in loss of valuable data and documents. To safeguard them, commercial spaces have started looking at investing in fire restraint safes and cabinets that are designed to withstand temperatures of up to 1000 degree C. They can be used to secure servers, data devices and important documents. These also come with special tongue and groove construction and insulation that prevents passage of flames and hot gases from entering the cabinet.
- Equipment making immense advancement in the fire-safety segment are detectors and suppressors especially for heavy industries such as pharmaceutical, aerospace, and defence. These detectors help to prevent fires by detecting leakages, smokes, carbon monoxide and rise in temperature of a particular space. This will help to reduce other collateral damages

Besides implementation, other trends that ensure fire safety in commercial spaces are adoption, detection and prevention. Increasing awareness about fire protection systems with better innovation for fire prevention are driving the development of the market. In the last decade, the industry has come a long way from mitigating risks post accidents to preventing and detecting to curtailing accidents. Industries are now opting for prevention-based approach while adopting fire security solutions. More and more industries are innovating, educating and training employees on prevention techniques - any examples we could share here. Fire, safety and security is evolving with the continuous development of infrastructure and commercial spaces. It is imperative to follow fire safety norms for avoiding unprecedented incidents at commercial spaces which impact a large number of people and businesses.



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