



## Upgraded Fire Alarm Lab Gives Students More Of A 'Real World' Experience

Fire alarm instructor Thomas Frenzel installs new duct detector fan assemblies at each fire alarm station.

**T**he JATC Technology Training Center fire alarm lab recently implemented upgrades at each lab station, allowing apprentices to build fire alarm systems that are very representative of the systems they are likely to find at the job site.

Fire alarm instructor Thomas Frenzel said the new additions include OS&Y and water flow valves for each lab station, as well as the implementation of new relay interfaces. Frenzel said the changes were made after apprentices "needed a stronger grasp on the mechanics

of all the interfaces made between fire alarm systems and other systems in a building." Frenzel added that videos and animations helped, as did drawings, but "it was clear that nothing short of the real thing would do."

To address the issue, newly purchased OS&Y and water flow valves were mounted at each station.

"We mounted the water flow valves on clear plastic tubing so the paddle valve could be seen in operation," said Frenzel.

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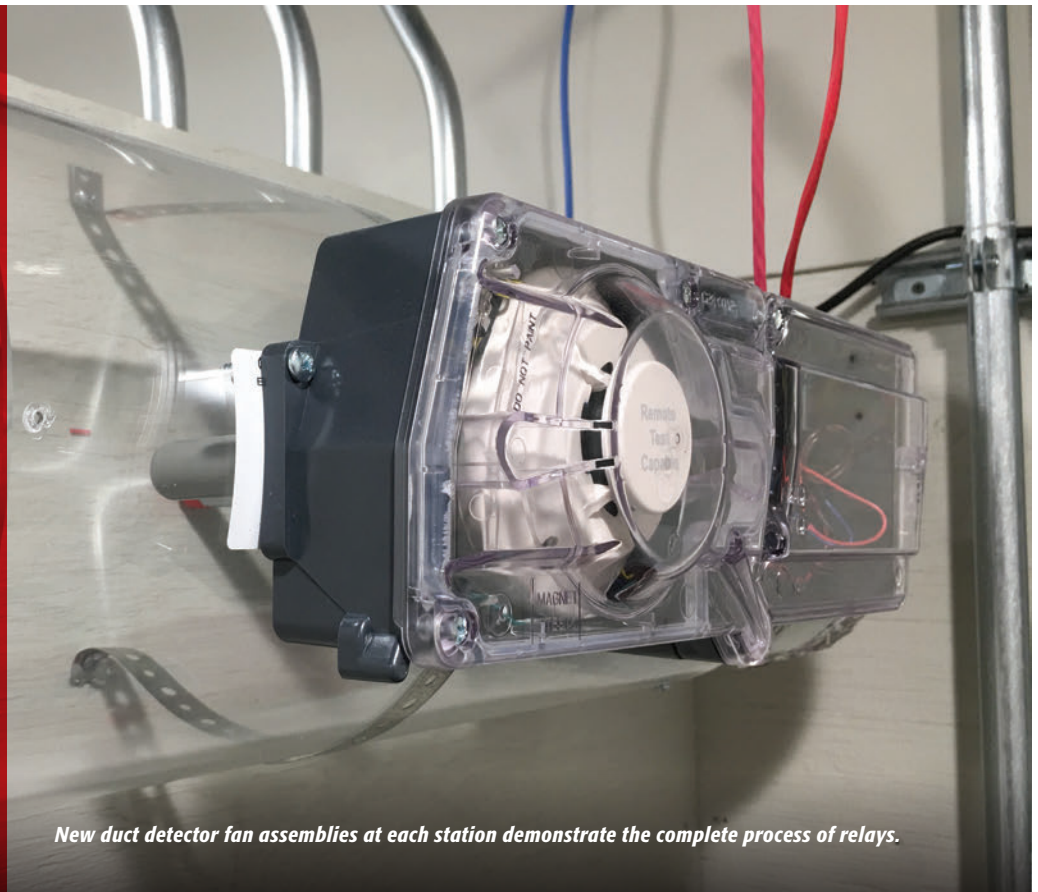


New OS&Y and water flow valves were mounted at each fire alarm station as part of the upgrades for the Fire Alarm Lab.

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# Upgraded Fire Alarm Lab Gives Students More Of A 'Real World' Experience

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*New duct detector fan assemblies at each station demonstrate the complete process of relays.*

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NORCAL JATC TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER



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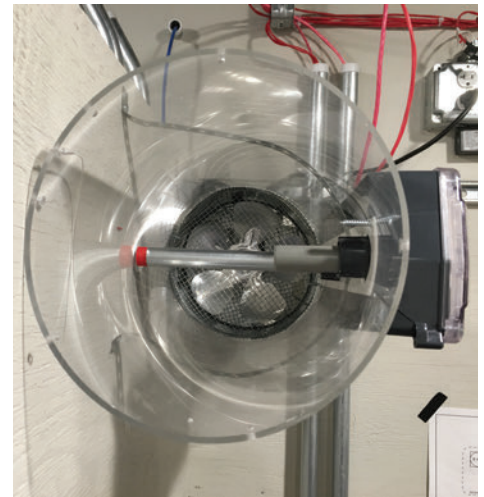
*New OS&Y and water flow valves help increase apprentices' grasp on the mechanics of all the interfaces made between fire alarm systems and other systems in a building.*

"The apprentice is responsible for mounting, adjusting, and testing the switch on the full size OS&Y valve. This way, they are able to add the knowledge of the electrical function of the controls to the mechanics of real world equipment."

To help apprentices better understand the use of relay interfaces, Frenzel said upgrades at the lab stations resulted in a more realistic interface involving the fire system low voltage relay.

"Apprentices wire the low voltage relay to control another interface relay, which in turn controls a 120VAC fan representing an HVAC system," said Frenzel. He said that along with the 120VAC fan, a duct detector was mounted at each station to a large clear plastic tube.

"This allows the apprentice to observe the fan pushing air into the duct detectors sampling tube," he said. "The apprentice can now watch the entire process of our sensor sampling the air in an environment, activating



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NORCAL JATC TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER

*New duct detector fan assemblies at each station are part of the upgrades for the Fire Alarm Lab.*

an alarm in our system and our system controlling a series of relays that shut down the fan as well as a fire smoke damper."

Frenzel added that the upgrades allow apprentices to "combine their knowledge of circuits, meter use, relays, and fire systems."





*Programming adjustments from Honeywell Vista® Series intrusion-only to intrusion + access-only control system requires a few keystrokes on the keypad.*

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NORCAL JATC TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER

## ***JATC Brings New Panels Into Security Lab***

**N**ew security panels from Honeywell's Vista® Series are now installed at each station in the Northern California Technology Training Center's security lab, replacing the older intrusion and access control trainers that had become difficult to service and repair.

"We were looking for a modern, state-of-the-art intrusion system that will be representative of what our apprentices will find in the field," said Instructor Brian Gaines. "We also wanted each lab station to have independent-access control capability."

Gaines said the selection of the Honeywell Vista® Series panels met the needs of the apprentices, and also enhanced the existing strategic partnership between Honeywell and the JATC. "This panel's popularity is very

high in the areas we serve," said Gaines. "The applications are diverse, from vendor kiosks at shopping malls to high school campuses."

Gaines added that the curriculum encourages apprentices to connect a basic intrusion system and test it, step-by-step. "Then we return to the classroom and discuss concepts of access control before returning to the hands-on lab to complete the card-access portion of the system," he said. "Making the programming adjustment from intrusion-only to intrusion + access only requires a few keystrokes on the keypad."

Gaines said that most large-scale access control systems installed today are only minimally integrated with the intrusion alarm, and are maintained by a trained operator at a dedicated workstation.

"Using that model would severely restrict



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NORCAL JATC TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER

*New Honeywell's Vista® Series security panels are now installed at each security station, teaching apprentices to connect and test a basic access system.*

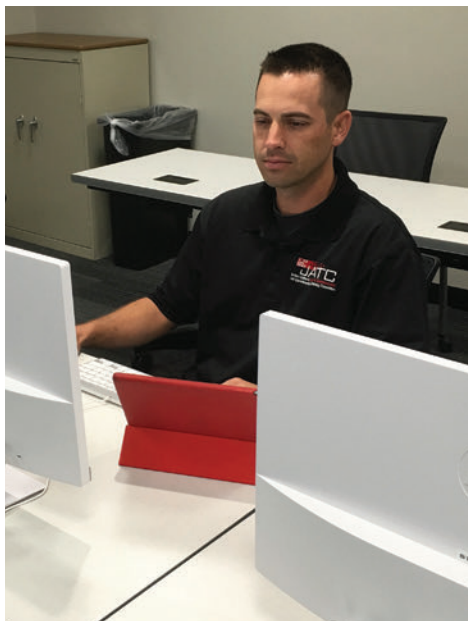
the opportunities of students to connect the field devices to the controller, as well as test the functionality of the system," he added. "That is another reason we selected the Honeywell panels."



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NORTCAL JATC TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER

## ***Aptitude Testing Room And Computer Lab Get New Computers***

***24 new computers have been added to the Technology Training Center's Aptitude Testing Room, transforming the application process into a speedy digital experience.***



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NORTCAL JATC TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER

***Kevin Hackett, IT Manager, checks one of the 16 new computers that have been added to the Computer Lab for training in basic computer skills and file management in a client/server network.***

**H**undreds of applicants who apply for training each year at the Northern California Sound & Communication JATC Regional Technology Training Center can expect a streamlined application process and faster results, thanks to the addition of 24 new computers to the Center's Aptitude Testing Room (Shasta Room). The new computers transform the former "paper and pencil" application process into a speedy digital experience, also satisfying employer needs in a timelier manner.

The applicants need to pass the exam with a score of four or higher to move on to the next phase of the application process, which is the oral interview.

Systems Engineer Kevin Hackett, who manages IT issues for the Aptitude Testing Room and the Computer Lab (Contra Costa Room), says about 450 applicants each year use the Testing Room to digitally take the aptitude exam.

Hackett said the use of the computers in the Aptitude Testing Room cuts the administrative costs of the application process by 50 per cent,

reducing the time for test processing. The streamlined process means time to schedule the tests has been reduced by two thirds; tests no longer have to be ordered, handled, and delivered, as paper exams were in the past.

The nearby Computer Lab also got a facelift with the advent of 16 new computers, Hackett said. These computers benefit the 300 apprentices who use the Computer Lab throughout the year for various purposes, including training in basic computer skills and brushing up on their skills with popular software programs such as Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word. The Computer Lab is also used to teach apprentices the skills of file management in a client/server network, including navigation, manipulation, conversion, and storing of documents.

The Lab provides access to the online Blended Learning web portal, offering a gateway to self-paced learning tools and instructional videos that are specific to the core curriculum. Students also use the Computer Lab for preparation of state certification tests, including the VDVT and Fire/Life Safety tests.





185 golfers set to tee off at the NorCal VDV golf tournament in San Jose at Cinnabar Hills.

PHOTO BY SCOTT PORTER

## NorCal VDV Golf Tournament Hosts 185 Players At Cinnabar Hills

**185** golfers had a great time at this year's NorCal VDV golf tournament, held at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club in South San Jose under blue skies on April 21st. A total of 48 foursomes played in the tourney, battling it out for a tie for the top two teams. The winning team scored 15 under in a four-ball 'best ball' scramble tournament format.

The tourney included check-in gifts, lunch, and a raffle after a BBQ dinner. Prizes ranged from golf clubs and golf bags to a full-size smoker. It was a fun event and we'll look forward to it again next year!



The NorCal VDV welcoming committee checks in the 185 golfers for the tournament as they arrive.

PHOTO BY SCOTT PORTER

## THE NORCAL S&C JATC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2016 GRADUATES:

### LOCAL 595

Bryan Botelho  
Cameron S. Butin  
Ruben Gonzales  
Jason Gonzalez  
Robert H. Molano  
John Nickel  
Scott T. Peaslee  
Heinz Rosener  
Matt T. Weidner

### LOCAL 302

Bryant Brodowy  
Michael Fabrizi  
Jason McGee

### LOCAL 332

Erika Bond  
Benjamin C. Cao  
Phillip C. Cheng  
John B. Elias  
Nathaniel D. Hefner  
Sean M. Larsen  
Henry Moctezuma  
Matthew W. Moraga  
Megan L. Parle  
Eric Pavlak  
Helmsley Pinlac  
Nathan Schmidt  
Timothy Shannon

Gustavo Yanez

### LOCAL 6

Tadhg M. Butler  
Timothy Flores

### LOCAL 617

Daniel Semke  
Samuel T. White

### LOCAL 340

Charles Buckalew  
Colter Hostek  
Bryan Lopez

### LOCAL 180

Darrell Marcum  
Jonathen Sherry  
Wilberto Suico  
Daniel Trute

### LOCAL 551

Austin Tyler  
Christopher Drake  
James Flaherty  
Ibanez Maldonado

### LOCAL 234

Charles Boardman  
Mohammed Garaan

### Local 100

Matthew Jensen

## CH Reynolds' Company-Wide Safety Program Is A Way Of Life

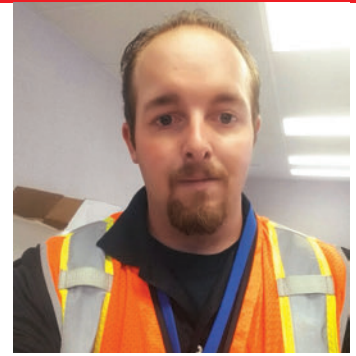


PHOTO COURTESY CH REYNOLDS

**Kevin Smith**

Safety Specialist  
CH Reynolds, San Jose

**CH Reynolds' safety program represents a way of life that is always improving. Kevin Smith, Safety Specialist, discusses how the company-wide safety program is implemented.**

**Q: What is your official title at CH Reynolds, and how long have you worked there?**

**A:** I am the company Safety Specialist and have been with CH Reynolds for one year.

**Q: What are the various components of your safety program and how is it administered?**

**A:** The safety program is backed by a full-time safety team who meet weekly. All safety programs are documented in a binder and sent out to each and every job site. Through quarterly safety meetings with our foreman and superintendents, we ensure all employees, including management and field employees, understand what the safety programs entail, and how to properly implement the guidelines. Additionally, we conduct safety trainings and have written policies/procedures that pertain to every applicable safety situation of our business.

**Q: What is the initial safety training that CH Reynolds employees go through?**

**A:** All new hires in the field receive initial orientation and training in a number of areas including: HIPP (Heat Illness Prevention Program); PPE (Personal Protective Equipment); housekeeping; ladder awareness; and the basic fatal four hazards (falls, electrocution, struck by, caught between). Once they enter a job site, they meet with the foremen to receive additional training for onsite requirements and review the CH Reynolds safety program.

**Q: How would you describe CH Reynolds' safety philosophy?**

**A:** It's a way of life. In CH Reynolds, it's commonly referred to as a culture that is always improving. Many new employees hear the word "safety" and they think they could be written up for breaking the smallest of rules. That thinking process is what we're trying to change to a more team-oriented approach.

Safety is here to ensure you make it home to your family in one piece. This includes informing you of job site hazards, training you on safety regulations, and being a sounding board when you have concerns about your safety or the safety of others. We are always improving our safety culture.

**Q: How would you describe your process for implementing the safety program, and how ongoing employee participation in the safety program is encouraged, implemented, and reinforced?**

**A:** When new safety programs are developed or revised, all changes are emailed to employees to make sure everyone in the company is aware of the new or updated programs. All employees, both field and management, cooperate for program implementation. If there is ever a question or an issue, the safety team is notified immediately. We have mandatory quarterly company-wide meetings, with a portion of the meeting devoted to communicating any changes to the safety manual to make sure safety programs are understood and clearly communicated.

**Q: How has your program grown or changed over the past few years? What's new?**

**A:** The safety program continues to become much more detailed and comprehensive, and company engagement has improved immensely. The field is more proactive about ensuring the work they do is being done safely. Training has become more readily available for company programs, and overall, safety has become an intricate part of all aspects of CH Reynolds.

**Q: Does CH Reynolds have ongoing training opportunities for safety at a management level?**

**A:** Most management level employees have received training in CPR/First Aid/AED, permit entry confined space and non-entry rescue, trenching and excavation, and other areas. Management is welcome and encouraged to participate in any of the safety trainings, and is always available when it's needed.

**Q: How do your customers view safety and do they see the value?**

**A:** We have been praised time and time again for our safe habits on job sites. Customers are extremely happy with our programs and our employees' performance and safety mindset.

**Q: If you had to use one sentence to sum up safety training at the CH Reynolds, what would that be?**

**A:** If you're not aware of certain safety procedures, let's get you trained!





PHOTO COURTESY CH REYNOLDS

Upon arriving to a job site, CH Reynolds employees meet with the foremen to review the onsite requirements and review the CH Reynolds safety program.



PHOTO COURTESY CH REYNOLDS

Through quarterly safety meetings with our foremen and superintendents, CH Reynolds ensures all employees, including management and field employees, understand what the safety program entails.



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preferred provider dentist:  
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# *For Medical Questions, Call Your Medical Plan's Nurse Help Line*

**IBEW/NECA Sound and Communications Health and Welfare Plan  
Trust Self-Funded PPO Medical Plan: 1-866-670-1565**

**- or -**

**Kaiser Permanente HMO Plan: 1-800-464-4000**

When you're faced with a medical situation and unsure what to do next or need more information, a registered nurse at the toll-free Nurse Help Line can answer your question 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call the Nurse Help Line when:

- You aren't sure how serious a symptom is and whether to go to the Emergency Room or wait for a doctor's office visit.
- You need more details about a specific medical condition.
- You want to know what to expect from a medical test your doctor ordered.
- You have a question you're hesitant to call your doctor about.

Nurses answer the phone themselves, listening to your questions and working through the details with you until you get the advice you need. They can also send you health care information from their health education library.

**IN CASE OF  
EMERGENCY!**

**If you think you have  
a life-threatening  
emergency, forego  
the Nurse Help Line  
and call 911 or go  
to the Emergency  
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