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Communications / FIRUS

Fermilab employs a site wide alarm system, built in-house, that combines five categories of alarms - Fire, Emergency, Security, Utility, and Trouble. The FIRUS (Fire Information Reporting and Utility System) is comprised of redundant front-end computers, a dedicated network, a series of "mini" controllers, and approximately 20 monitoring consoles. The system "masks" the five categories of alarms to the appropriate monitoring console. The monitoring consoles consist of Apple PCs, and color monitors.

There are two monitoring consoles located within Wilson Hall, in the Security Operations Center (SOC). The primary PC has two monitors (slaved), one at each of the two dispatch stations. The second PC console is an on-line back-up unit located in the SOC Supervisor's office, adjacent to the EOC. This unit can be used to support the EOC Staff.

The SOC is staffed with nine Emergency Operator/Dispatchers, a Security Access Specialist and a SOC Supervisor. There are always two dispatchers are on duty working in 8-hour shifts. The SOC operates 24-hours a day, seven (7) days a week. The dispatchers are equipped with Zetron two-way radios, Intrado telephone systems, backup Kenwood radio systems, and VOIP telephones.

The Security Operations Center is located on the ground floor of Wilson Hall. The room is constructed of concrete block walls on 3 sides with floor to ceiling windows on the south wall. The windows are coated with 3M™ Safety & Security Window Films Ultra Series combined with the 3M™ Impact Protection Attachment (IPA) Sealant. There are 3 doors, one door into the SOC is by card reader access, one door opens into the Security Supervisors office area and the 3rd door opens into the Emergency Operations Center from the SOC Supervisors office.

The equipment for this system located in Wilson Hall, including the SOC, has auxiliary power via the SOC's Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and Wilson Hall's emergency generator. The mini controllers located throughout the Site have a battery back-up system.