

Hydrosense – Water Leakage Detection

Now, more than ever before, the catastrophic damage that can be done to businesses by water is at the top of the agenda. Whilst those affected by the floods in the North of England in June 2007 saw the approaching waters, not every flood or water leakage is on such a massive scale. Even small amounts of undetected water can mean very serious and costly damage.

Leaking pipes, faulty joints, blocked overflows and over-spilling drip trays on air conditioning units are all hidden faults that unless detected could spell disaster for electrical, communication and computer networks. HVAC systems, water-cooled plant and sprinkler systems all add to the risk of water finding its way into areas which should be protected from such damage. Of course it is not just IT systems that are at risk; museum archives, legal documents and all manner of securely stored items need to be protected from water damage.



Hydrosense, Water Leakage Detection System.

Because water can actually defy gravity by travelling up cables by capillary action, even apparatus raised above the floor is at risk from damage. Water leaking under a false floor, for example can still find its way up cables into equipment and cause significant and costly damage. The only way to mitigate the risk of water damaging expensive IT, control and manufacturing equipment is to continuously monitor for water leakage.

The Hydrosense water leakage detection system is an excellent solution. Used to continuously monitor for leaks, there are two methods of detection; linear and point detection.

Linear Detection

By far the most common installation type uses linear detection with 10 metre lengths of Hydrowire detection cable simply plugged together to form individual detection zones up to 50 metres in length, covering an area of approximately 60 square metres. This form of linear detection is very versatile as the cable can be installed in cable trays alongside other services, under false floors, laid on suspended ceilings and in all other voids.

Probe Point Detection

The second method of detection is by the use of probes. The Hydrosense floor probes are used where Hydrowire cannot be used due to installation constraints. Solid floors cannot have cable on the surface, so probes are often installed next to a risk such as a radiator, pipe work or air conditioning unit. Height adjustable, the probes can be used in areas where some water presence is expected but where an alarm is required should the level become critical. Floor probes are often fitted with a protective cage to prevent malicious or accidental damage. There are even special probes designed for use on air conditioning drip trays.



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Any system designed to protect expensive or pricelist assets needs to be reliable. Hydrosense detection zones are fully monitored for short or open circuit, meaning if any Hydrowire cable or probe was damaged, there would be an audible buzzer on the panel to alert the user of the problem.

Installation

Those familiar with the installation and commissioning of fire alarm or security control panels will find fitting a Hydrosense system very simple. The system has many features to make the Hydrosense solution ideal for most applications.

- 1 - 24 zone panels
- Choice of panel design and mounting
- Fully monitored detection and alarm circuits
- Easily installed, serviced and maintained
- Dedicated Fire-Cryer® 'Water Leakage' messages available
- Remote 'Water Alarm' lamp units available
- Auxiliary alarm contacts

Differentiating the Alarm

Many Hydrosense systems are now supplied with Fire-Cryer® voice sounders as part of the system. On sensing a leak, the Fire-Cryer® will broadcast '*water leakage alarm activated, immediate attention required*'. Use of voice messages differentiates the alarm from the fire or security system and makes a fast response to the leakage alarm more likely.

Use of the Hydrosense system will not stop water leakage but by continuously monitoring for water it will ensure that damage is limited and costs associated with water damage are minimised.

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