



To: All Interested Parties
From: Andy Blaszak, General Manager
Date: March 27, 2020
Re: Associated Fire Protection to Continue Operations as an Essential Business

To Whom It May Concern,

The health and safety of our employees, customers, and everyone in the community are valued above all else at Associated Fire Protection. We recognize that our customers rely upon us to ensure that their Life Safety & Fire Protection systems are operational and optimal to protect employees and occupants. In this spirit, AFP wants to share the status of our continued business operations and processes.

Essential Business Operation

We continue to monitor and evaluate the everchanging social and business environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. AFP is a provider of all types of Life Safety and Fire Protection systems to every occupancy classification. Regardless of occupancy, these systems are critical infrastructure to First Responders. In a [NFPA News Release dated March 24, 2020](#), NFPA President and CEO Jim Pauley stated,

“While communities are rightly focused on dealing with the pandemic, we cannot put additional strain to our overburdened emergency response capabilities, by not ensuring buildings are protected with the very equipment that saves lives and property. First responders rely on commercial and multi-occupancy residential buildings in their communities to have a full array of fire and life safety systems such as working fire detection, alarms and sprinkler systems.” ^[1]

Therefore, it is the position of Associated Fire Protection that we qualify under the various definitions of an “Essential Business”. This position supported by the United States DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency [memo date March 19, 2020](#) statement that “Workers – including contracted vendors – who maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting law enforcement and emergency service operations” are considered “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers”. ^[2]

As an [ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company](#), our procedures and processes allow us to quickly and efficiently train and cross-train our personnel if necessary. Additionally, this standardization enhances our ability to adapt our current operation to support other adjacent businesses in the areas of system installation, integration, procurement, and logistics. Currently, AFP has not been directly impacted by COVID-19, continues to operate at full capacity, and will continue to follow all preventative measures.

Suppliers & Logistics

As an Essential Business, AFP has continued to communicate with all vendors and freight carriers to ensure their continued operation. Our suppliers have avoided disruption from 3rd Party vendors, and freight continues to operate regularly, allowing AFP to continue delivering on our promise of “*ensuring peace of mind by protecting life and property.*” Prior to shipping outbound freight, AFP will communicate with each customer to ensure that there will be someone available to receive the shipment.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your business. We will continue to monitor policy changes and keep you informed. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes of health and safety to you and your families.

Andy Blaszak 
General Manager
Associated Fire Protection

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References & Additional Resources

- [1] [2020-03-24 – News Release - NFPA issues guidance to government officials on fire protection and life safety systems regardless of occupancy status](#)
- [2] [2020-03-19 - CISA Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers 1-20-508c](#)
- [3] [NFPA Fact Sheet - Guidance for Maintaining Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems Regardless of Occupancy Status](#)
- [4] <http://www.associatedfire.net/covid-19-readiness/>
- [5] [NFPA Emergency Preparedness Checklist](#)
- [6] [NFPA Emergency Preparedness Checklist - Spanish](#)

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