

## Protection of Emergency Detection Systems During Construction

Emergency detection systems are often required to be maintained in or around areas where construction activities are taking place. The detectors located in the workface may be isolated during construction activities, but the detection loop will remain active. Any damage to the detector or loop could prompt an alarm to trigger as it did in this case.



*Damaged Smoke Detector Head*



*Construction Activity*

The Smoke Detector Head was actually in isolation when it was damaged, so would not have caused an evacuation, however, due to a breakage in the wiring it alarmed out at the control panel in security, who advised the responsible party.



*Smoke Detector Head with Protective Box*

### The Challenge

The Smoke Detector Head was always required to be put back into service when the works had been completed in that area, meaning it was impractical to remove the detector from the detection loop and reinstate it every day.

### The Solution

The team was tasked to produce a purpose fit box to encase the Smoke Detector Head from being accidentally kicked or struck. The box needed to allow the detector to operate and be maintained, therefore a domed cap made from heavy gauge mesh was screwed to the wooden square box protector.

### Key Points

- Emergency systems should be temporarily relocated away from construction activities if possible.
- Construction activities should be assessed to predetermine any possible damage likely to be caused to emergency systems.
- Emergency systems should be protected where it is impossible or impractical to relocate them away from construction activities.
- The construction team should be made aware of any emergency systems in or around the workface.

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