

LA FEDERAL COURT KEPT SAFE WITH BEAM SMOKE DETECTORS

When SimplexGrinnell, a subsidiary of Johnson Controls, was tasked with installing a fire protection system for the prestigious Los Angeles Federal Courthouse, the challenge was clear: how to effectively monitor a vast, ten-story atrium without compromising design or incurring excessive maintenance costs. As their trusted solutions provider, Space Age Electronics partnered closely with Johnson Controls to recommend and deliver the Fireray® 5000 reflective beam smoke detection system from FFE—a smart, reliable answer to a high-stakes requirement.



“ *Because the atrium is so high, conventional smoke detectors were not suitable for this installation. Our Fireray 5000 auto-aligning, reflective smoke detectors were selected instead as they are ideal for this kind of large interior, providing extensive coverage at minimal cost.* ”

MARK OSBORNE
MANAGING DIRECTOR, FFE

THE CHALLENGE

The 633,000-square-foot courthouse in downtown Los Angeles—home to 24 courtrooms and 32 judges’ chambers—features an open atrium that connects all ten floors. The soaring height and large volume of this space posed unique challenges for traditional point smoke detectors. How could Johnson Controls engineer fire safety confidence into such a complex space?

THE SOLUTION

Enter FFE, a trusted provider of specialist fire detection solutions for over 50 years, with the Fireray® 5000. This beam smoke detector is designed specifically for large, architecturally sensitive spaces. The system uses an infrared beam between a detector and a reflector to identify smoke anywhere along its path. Most importantly, it includes two critical features:

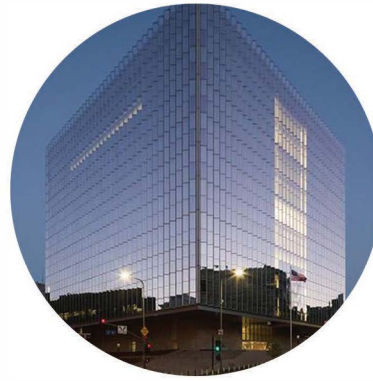
- **Low-Level Controller:** Allows remote alignment, testing, and maintenance; essential in areas with limited physical access.
- **Auto-Alignment Compensation:** Adjusts automatically as the building settles over time, ensuring precise alignment and reducing false alarms or service calls.

FIRERAY® 5000 FEATURES

- Range of 26.25 ft. to 330 ft. (8m to 100m)
- Built-in Laser-assisted prism mounting
- Auto-Alignment 2 to 4 minutes per head
- AutoOptimise: Auto-Correction due to building shift
- Built-in electronic UL/ULC/FM obscuration-acceptance fire test
- Separate Trouble and Alarm relays for each of the 2 channels
- Programmable alarm thresholds: 10% - 60% in 1% increments
- Programmable Fault and Alarm delay: 2 - 30 Seconds

CODE COMPLIANT

When completing any fire alarm project, code compliance is the priority. Whether it be national codes and standards, or local specific requirements by the AHJ on site, Space Age Electronics provides numerous solutions for satisfying both sets of standards.



TECHNICAL ALIGNMENT AND TRUSTED SUPPORT

Space Age Electronics was there every step of the way to provide more than just the hardware, we offered:

- **Solution Matching:** Recommended a system that balanced performance, aesthetics, and lifecycle cost.
- **Technical Support:** Equipped Johnson Controls' team with knowledge to install and commission the detectors efficiently.
- **Rapid Fulfillment:** Ensured timely delivery to meet construction timelines on a high-profile federal build.

"As the units are situated high up, physically accessing them regularly is exorbitantly expensive and impractical, so remote access is essential."

—Sharon Brown (Construction Manager, SimplexGrinnell)

Today, the Fireray® 5000 system—quietly monitored through low-level controllers—protects the courthouse's atrium with minimal intrusion, preserving the architectural vision while providing critical life safety coverage.

With over half a million units installed globally, Fireray is the beam smoke detector of choice for those building the future—and with Space Age Electronics as their partner, integrators like Johnson Controls are empowered to deliver world-class results on time and with confidence.

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