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**LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION COMPANY HOLDING WATER
WITH BIG FISH, BIG MEDIA AND BIG GOVERNMENT**

Atlanta landmarks require customized fire safety solutions

ATLANTA (October 11, 2006) – You may not think that a facility consisting of more than eight million gallons of water would need fire protection. Or that the news network covering a fire could be the fire. Or that the grinding wheels of government could actually cause a damaging spark.

Such are the environments that Integrated Fire Protection (IFP) finds itself these days. The Atlanta-based company provides fire protection products and services throughout Georgia and the Southeast – including hot properties such as the Georgia Aquarium, CNN and Atlanta’s federal government buildings.

Understanding the many environmental and regulatory considerations that go into designing, installing and servicing such projects is a skill in itself, according to John Bennett, IFP president. “We have to think beyond just putting out a fire. Each of these projects requires addressing a special set of circumstances that are inherent in each property,” said Bennett.

While saving human life is at the core of any fire protection system, other factors come into play at each location. “The Georgia Aquarium is very concerned about avoiding contamination of the water tanks,” said Eric Smith, director of operations for IFP’s extinguisher division. “A typical ammonium phosphate-based fire extinguisher cannot be used near the wildlife.”

Instead, as part of the aquarium’s first annual fire safety inspection, Smith said CO2 gas extinguishers were inspected and positioned around the natural habitat areas to douse flames by removing oxygen that feeds fire, while not contaminating the surroundings.

The CNN and Turner Properties installation involved several different loading docks – each protected by an existing overhead automatic sprinkler system. IFP determined the previous system wasn’t adequate for the high-ceiling areas since heat sensors would not activate in time to prevent fire damage.

Turner Properties, which included work on eight different buildings, opted for a system that IFP specially designed for the installation. Since the need is to provide quicker response time and a more direct means for extinguishing a fire that might start in nearby dumpsters or other areas, the IFP system involves both manual and electronic activation. The water is released via heat-sensor “dry drop” sprinkler heads and open nozzle sprinkler heads that are activated from an electronic pull station.

IFP’s dry drop BETE nozzles are manufactured to provide a concentrated, cylinder spray pattern as opposed to a typical umbrella spray pattern. The advantage is a design that provides water



applications at described densities in a localized area. The system also offers the ability to quickly drain after use to avoid freeze damage during cold weather.

Both the Georgia Aquarium and CNN projects required special customization and applications that weren't governed by any standardized guidelines, and required work around the clock – usually during off-peak hours. However, strict security guided and regulated the Atlanta federal building installations that included the Atlanta Federal Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Building and Richard B. Russell Building.

“Doing contract work in the federal buildings falls under the watchful eye of the U.S. Marshall Service and Office of Homeland Security,” said Bennett. “Our people were required to first submit fingerprints and undergo a complete background check.”

In addition to upgrading and maintaining the federal buildings' existing fire protection system from sprinkler systems to fire extinguishers, IFP had to be sensitive to and aware of federal fire safety laws that override state regulations. The company also provided training and other recommendations for keeping all life safety systems up to the appropriate code and functioning properly. In addition, the program includes annual testing and maintenance along with a separate program designed to check and maintain the systems every five years.

Commented Bennett, “For these types of major projects, we're not designing systems just to put out fires, we're protecting lives and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment as well as irreplaceable documents and other property.”

ABOUT INTEGRATED FIRE PROTECTION

Integrated Fire Protection (IFP) provides premier fire protection sales and services for a variety of environments and industries such as airports, multi-housing communities, office and commercial buildings, manufacturing and distribution centers, churches, theaters, school systems and sports arenas. IFP provides a complete line of fire and life safety products including: portable fire extinguishers, exit and emergency lighting, fire sprinkler systems and all related components, back-flow prevention, fire hydrants, fire suppression systems and fire alarms. Customized training programs are also available and tailored to meet specific requirements. For information, see www.integratedfireprotection.com.

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