

**Q: What is the Zetron IP Fire Station Alerting System?**

A: Zetron's IP Fire Station Alerting (FSA) allows dispatchers at a central site to activate the fire station lights, generate alert tones, deliver dispatcher voice announcements, and actuate ancillary equipment functions. It manages unit status in a manner that is highly reliable and compliant with NFPA 1221.

The IP FSA uses an Internet Protocol network to deliver data commands such as alerting, polling and control messages to the IP Station Units, enabling rapid dispatch of fire station personnel and apparatus.

**Q: How long does it take for the Fire Stations to be alerted?**

A: Alerts are extremely quick. When sending one alert simultaneously to 255 stations, all stations will begin the alert tones in approximately 2 seconds. Alerting additional apparatus at each station will add a small amount of time.

**Q: How many dispatcher positions can be used with the system?**

A: Zetron has tested up to 24 dispatch positions.

**Q: How many fire stations does this system support?**

A: 255

**Q: Will the IP FSA work with CAD?**

A: Yes. The IP FSA has optional CAD licenses for Zetron's XML interface.

**Q: How does the dispatcher generate alerts?**

A: Either manually through the FSA Console and/or via the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) (if a CAD interface has been written to interface to the IP FSA system). The FSA Console is the computer screen application which dispatchers use to select and alert stations, as well as monitor or change apparatus status, control relay output, monitor opto-isolated input, send station printer text, and filter views for quick resource selection. The FSA Console can be used as the sole dispatcher interface to the system for systems without CAD, as an inactive back-up to CAD.

**Q: How do dispatchers provide voice announcements to the station Public Address (PA) system?**

A: Either through a radio system or via VoIP.

**Q: We require a backup in case of IP network failure. How can this be accomplished with the Zetron IP FSA?**

A: NFPA 1221 requires that an independent means of communication be provided in the event the primary circuit fails. If using VoR for the PA Announcements, the Model 26 can provide that independent means. Should the IP system go down, the M26, which would be sitting idle in standby, can be turned on. After the first poll cycle to gather station status, the M26 will take over. If CAD is used, it must also be redirected from the FSA Server to the M26.

**Q: Are there any parts of my existing M6/26 system that I can reuse?**

A: Yes. Existing M6s may be upgraded with options that allow your system to work over IP and VoIP. Check with Zetron Sales to see if your M6s are of the version that will work. As mentioned above, the M26 may be used as a back-up communications path in the event the IP network is unavailable.

**Q: How many vehicles can be alerted per station with the Zetron IP FSA system?**

A: More vehicles can be alerted than any known station has in its inventory. There are 255 station addresses available and each station address can alert 7-8 apparatus. Since more than one station address can be at a single station, the system can easily accommodate small, medium and large stations all in one system.

**Q: What if the Fire Stations require an alerting system now, but the IP system won't be in place until later?**

A: You most certainly can order the M6203 and M6204 station units in anticipation of the future IP system. By purchasing a M26 in place of the FSA Server, you can get the system working with analog signaling over radio. Once IP is available, replace the M26 with the FSA Server and use the radio system to deliver the dispatcher voice to the radios at the station (or convert to VoIP). Please understand that the timings are obviously different with the M26 than with the IP system.

**Q: We plan on using VoIP to make the PA announcements in the Fire Stations. Is there any way to send voice over the radio to the fire units out in the field as well?**

A: Voice certainly can be sent over radio to the personnel in the field and over IP to the IP Station Units. This is done one of two ways. One way is by Simul-Selecting the channels going to the portable of mobile radios in the field to the channel going to the VoIP Server. Another way is by paralleling the radio system wiring to the VoIP Server. That's a good one to discuss with your radio technician. However, it is not possible, within a single IP FSA system, to deliver voice to some of the IP Station Units over radio and to other IP Station Units over IP.

**Q: Can the station tones be ramped up slowly to minimize the stress on personnel?**

A: Yes. The IP Station Units can generate a selection of alerting tones with volume ramping.

**Q: Is it possible to have zoned alerting in the stations?**

A: Yes. Each IP Station Unit (M6203/6204) has 4 control relays that can be associated with each station resource alert, station or apparatus alert. The relays can be used for controlling functions appropriate for each resource. For example, when the station alert is initiated in an IP Station Unit, all lights and bay doors can be activated if they are controlled by relays. However, if just the Medic crew is alerted, only the lights in a certain portion of the building and the bay door for that particular truck are activated.

**Q: Can the station personnel talk back to the dispatcher using this system?**

A: Yes. The optional handset with hookswitch attached to one M6203 or M6204 at a fire station allows the station personnel to speak with the dispatcher with VoR or, if the system is using it, VoIP. Additionally, the handset allows station personnel easy access to their PA system.

**Q: Does the IP FSA contribute to the Fire Department meeting NFPA 1221?**

A: The Zetron IP FSA complies with NFPA 1221 requirements by providing supervision of dispatch circuits, failure indications and capability to acknowledge receipts for dispatched alarms. These requirements can be met without the use of CAD. Because NFPA 1221 is beneficial to the community's insurance rates, our compliance to the standards contributes to their lower rates.

**Q: Can I send a "rip and run" print out to the station?**

A: Yes. Either by CAD or keyboard entry.

**Q: Can the IP FSA be used to track the status of the apparatus at each station?**

A: Yes. The system is designed to share information between CAD (if used), the FSA Console, and the IP Station Units. In doing so, the status of the apparatus is always current in the CAD, on the dispatcher's screen and on the station unit associated with that apparatus regardless of where the information was input to the system.

**Q: How can I be sure my network is suitable for IP or VoIP?**

A: In every case, the IP FSA uses IP for communicating command messages (data) between the FSA Server, the IP Station Units, and the FSA Console. The requirements placed upon the network are not stringent, but a minimum level of performance is expected. However, if VoIP is used between the VoIP server and the IP Station Units, a much greater level of performance is demanded of the network. In this case, it is best to discuss it with your networking specialist. The important thing is that your IP system meets the minimum requirements for the Zetron FSA. Either refer to the IP FSA Configuration Guide or ask Zetron Sales for a copy of the Network Specifications.

**Contact your Zetron reseller for more information on Zetron's Extended Warranty program.**



**ZETRON AMERICAS**

PO Box 97004, Redmond, WA USA 98073-9704

(P) +1 425 820 6363 (F) +1 425 820 7031 (E) zetron@zetron.com

**ZETRON EMEA**

27-29 Campbell Court, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5EG, United Kingdom

(P) +44 1256 880663 (F) +44 1256 880491 (E) uk@zetron.com

**ZETRON AUSTRALASIA**

PO Box 3045, Stafford Mail Centre, Stafford QLD 4053, Australia

(P) +61 7 3856 4888 (F) +61 7 3356 6877 (E) au@zetron.com

©Zetron, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Zetron® and Zetron and Design® are registered trademarks of Zetron, Inc. All other trademarks are properties of their respective owners.

See Zetron price list for option pricing. Specifications subject to change without notice.

www.zetron.com

005-9000D May 2012