



Custom Fire & Security delivers the right message to Hall & Woodhouse

Based in the picturesque Dorset village of Blandford St Mary, Hall & Woodhouse has a history dating back to 1777, when Charles Hall started brewing beer for the troops stationed in Weymouth while they waited to face Napoleon. Having maintained its status as an independent family company, it now operates over 200 pubs and is known for producing award winning beverages such as Tanglefoot, Fursty Ferret, Hopping Hare and Pickled Partridge.

As well as being its headquarters, the Blandford St Mary site also boasts a popular visitor centre. The site recently completed a refurbishment programme, which included the installation of a Compact 9 emergency voice communication system (EVCS) from SMS.

Expertly designed and installed by fellow Dorset resident, Custom Fire & Security, the two companies have worked closely together for many years. In order to fully comply with the Equality Act, BS 9999 and BS 5839, Hall & Woodhouse needed to install a disabled refuge system. The Equality Act makes it the responsibility of all companies to ensure that access to buildings and services is available to everyone – there must be no discrimination.

It consulted with Custom Fire & Security about the best possible solution for its needs and Ralph Hooper, Custom Fire & Security's head of fire safety division, explains, 'We've installed many types of life safety equipment but have always found SMS offers the highest level of quality, reliability and cost effectiveness, as well as hassle free installation.'

After carrying out a full risk assessment at Hall & Woodhouse, we decided that an SMS Compact 9 EVCS ticked all the boxes.'

A fixed, secure, bi-directional, full duplex voice communication system, the EVCS Master control panel is linked to the refuge point outstations. If assistance is required at one of these outstations, a button is pressed which immediately activates an alert and help will be on its way. Just as importantly, it assists fire-fighters during emergencies and allows them to be in constant contact with the people in refuge areas who need their help.

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Nick Doughty, Site Manager at Hall & Woodhouse, concludes, 'Ensuring the safety of all employees and visitors is very important to us. We want the very best provision for disabled people, so that we can ensure their safe evacuation in the event of an emergency and, thanks to the expertise of Custom Fire & Security and best in class EVCS technology from SMS, we have just that.'

SMS is part of Honeywell

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