

Case History

Outdoor Alert Loudspeakers at Virginia Tech

In 2005, ATI was contracted to install four outdoor high-powered speaker stations at Virginia Tech.. In December 2006, phase two of the siren project commenced. Phase two allowed for the installation of two additional sirens to be added to the campus' outdoor warning system. To further enhance the acoustic coverage, some units were installed on the rooftops of campus buildings, while others were mounted on poles.

Each HPSS distributes sound through a 400 or 800 watt acoustic horn, which is set at a specific direction to prevent sound echo or reflection. These units can also be tilted to prevent multiple arrivals of sound beams at listener locations. During an emergency, the ATI sirens will immediately alert students, faculty, staff, and visitors through a series of tones followed by an emergency message. By alerting the campus of an emergency and providing clear, intelligible directives, the Virginia Tech safety officials will be able to secure the campus quickly and effectively.

More recently, secondary alerting methodologies, such as text messages, desktop alerting, and LED display have also been implemented. The combination of technologies being utilized at Virginia Tech provides the Virginia Tech campus with the confidence and security they need in an ever-changing world.

In response to the shootings at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, President Bush enacted amendments to the Jean Clery Act, which requires universities to implement emergency response systems that immediately notify the campus community of a dangerous situation. Those amendments include a multimillion-dollar federal funding provision to assist schools in acquiring multichannel notification systems. The Department of Education will match university funding raised to purchase and install the new technology.