

PERTRONIC INDUSTRIES LTD

FIREBITS

FIRE-NZ Edition - September 2007

Welcome to the **FIRE-NZ** Conference edition of **FIREBITS**, Pertronic Industries' quarterly newsletter. Our company is proud to be a regular supporter of this important annual event for our industry - and all the more so in 2007 as we celebrate 25 years in business.

Pertronic Industries is the classic Kiwi success story of starting up a business in a back yard shed and applying bucket loads of dedication and perseverance. David Percy founded the company in 1982 (compress *Percy Electronics* a little and you get *Pertronic*). He bought a Skyline work shed for his back yard and started building power supplies for New Zealand Fire Service control and communications equipment. Outgrowing the shed, David moved the business to premises at the bottom of Wellington's Ngaurunga Gorge, and the company's first automatic fire alarm panel - the F30 - was developed in 1986. Continued growth forced a relocation to leased premises on Eastern Hutt Rd, with a third move to the company's own property (across the road at number 17) taking place in 2004.



David's "back yard shed" is now a 1800m² building on a 6300m² site, housing the design, development and manufacturing headquarters for the company. The New Zealand business also includes an Auckland sales office, with overseas offices and warehouses established in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Shanghai.

Since the original F30 fire alarm panel, the company has developed a full range of technically advanced analogue addressable and conventional fire alarm control panels and accessories. Combine this product range with comprehensive engineering back up and a very supportive customer base, and you have a company which has earned itself a strong position in the New Zealand and Australia fire protection industry.



**25 years of alarming New Zealand -
for all the right reasons!**

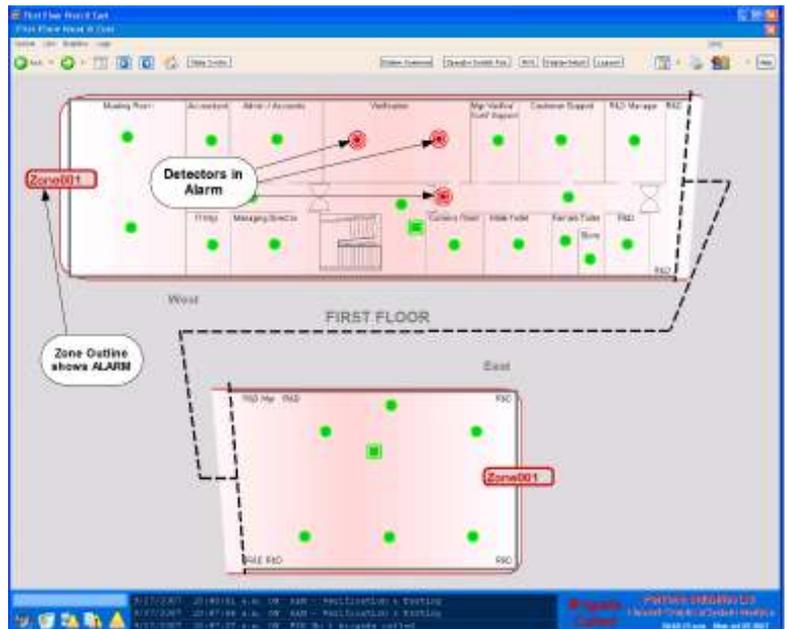
Pertronic Fire Graphics System Now Available

Pertronic Industries has completed development of its colour Fire Graphics System. The system is a PC-based interactive application which provides the user with a graphical representation of a building's layout on a zone by zone basis. All detectors, call points, etc, are plotted onto pages, or maps, to their exact location in each section of the building. The location of associated equipment, such as fire doors and hose reels, can also be plotted. Any device changing its state (eg. Fire, Isolate or Defect) is clearly highlighted within the graphics system. The PC operator can then interact with the fire alarm system to reset or isolate devices as necessary, or to remotely take over control of all functions on the fire alarm panel.

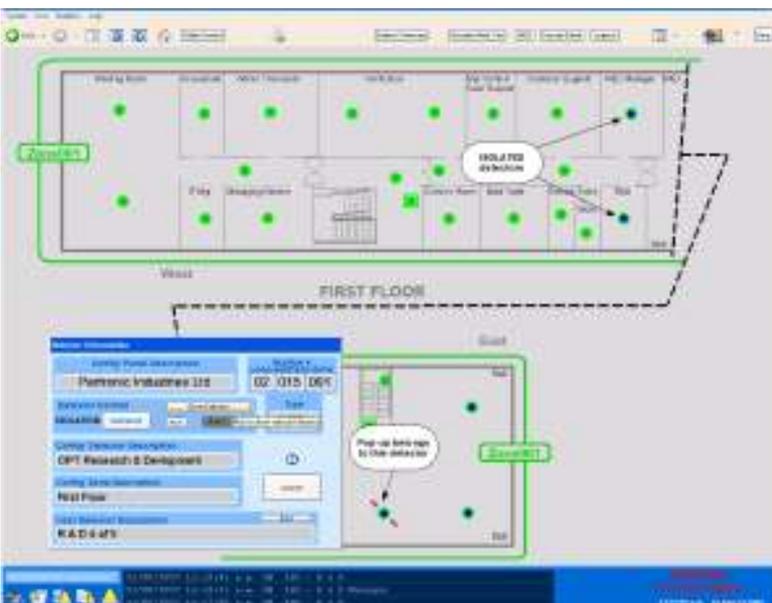
Individual fire alarm panels, or a network of panels, can be connected to the Pertronic Fire Graphics System. All events are recorded to hard disk and the system supports multiple users with separate access privileges. An electronic notepad is also included for recording messages at staff shift changes.

At the core of the Pertronic Fire Graphics System is an industrial SCADA system, which is used and supported world wide. Applications of this core software within New Zealand include Air NZ Engine Service Centre, NZ Police radio repeater sites control, BCNZ remote site management, and The Warehouse retail outlets building management. Many other reference sites are available on request.

The two pictures on this page are screen dumps from the Fire Graphics System set up for Pertronic Industries' Lower Hutt premises. The physical shape of the zone displayed is long and narrow, so the 'map' created for this zone splits the floor plan in two, to make better use of screen space and sizing.



In the top picture, or screen, three detectors are shown in alarm - in a live system, the red concentric rings flash. The Zone descriptor and Zone outline also change to red and flash. An audible alarm in the computer sounds, and can be silenced by clicking the speaker icon on the lower tool bar. This tool bar also flashes the "Brigade Called" message. To the left of this message is the activity log window, showing recent events.



The top task bar has tabs used to navigate around the Fire Graphics System, in addition to the operators' log-in point, access to the electronic notepad and report options.

In the lower picture, five detectors are shown isolated - when isolated in a normal condition, their inner circle changes to blue. Clicking on any detector opens up its 'Detector Information' window. The operator clicks on tabs in this window to isolate or de-isolate the device, or to acknowledge and reset the device when it is in alarm. The device can be further highlighted with rotating 'blades,' as shown. Operators with the appropriate user/access level can also change device details, descriptions, etc, in this window.

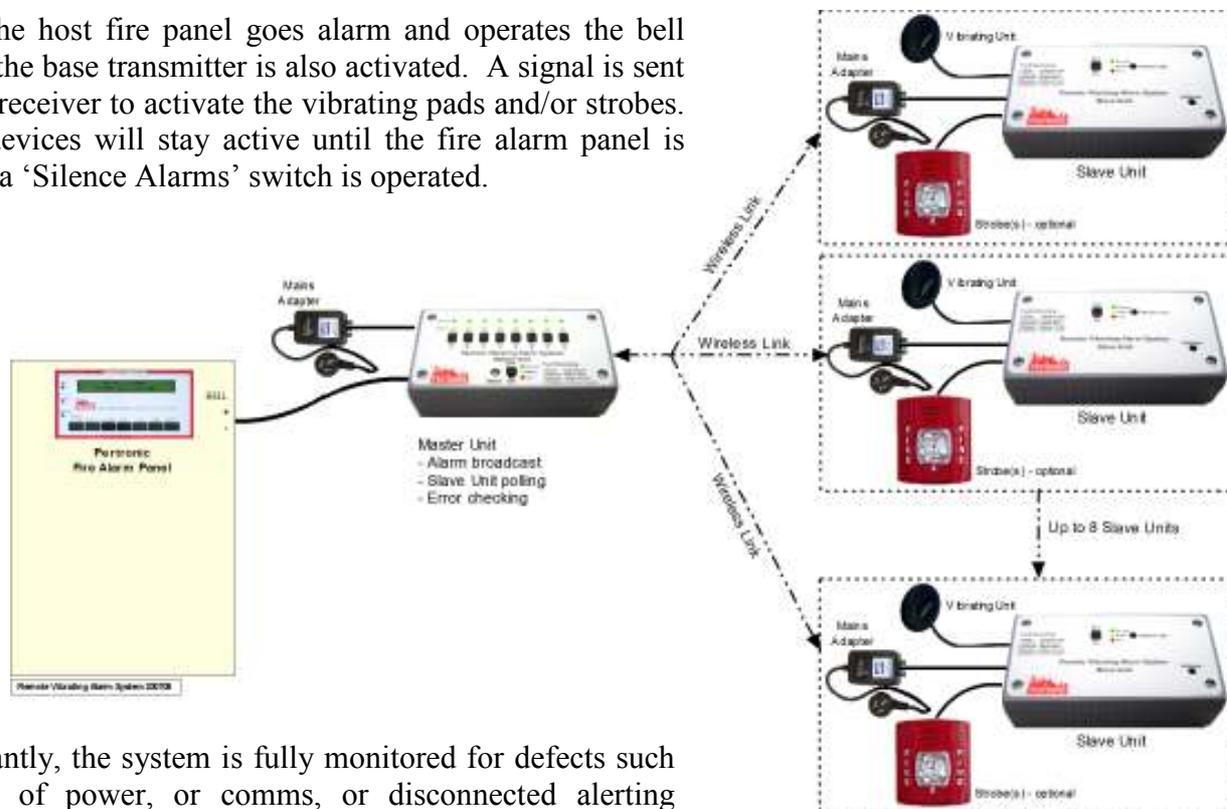
New Alerting Devices For the Hearing Impaired

Providing effective alerting devices for the hard of hearing is a difficult problem. Strobe lights perform well when people are awake, but can be ineffective during sleeping hours. Vibrating pads (placed under pillows) are very effective at night time, but have to be hard wired back to a fire alarm panel, which is not always easy to achieve.

Pertronic Industries has developed a Wireless Remote Vibrating Alarm System to meet this specific need. The system consists of a base transmitter (or master) unit and up to eight wireless remote receiver (or slave) units. Each wireless receiver can support a vibrating pad and up to two System Sensor strobes. Transmitters and receivers are all supplied with a mains-powered “plug pack” and have a battery back-up.

Installation is very straightforward. The base transmitter is placed near the fire alarm panel and connected to the mains power supply. The only hard wiring required is one cable from the base transmitter to the evacuation, or bell, output on the fire alarm panel. Wireless receivers are placed in bedrooms and living areas as needed, and plugged into power points. Vibrating pads and/or strobes are then connected. Each receiver is individually “addressed” (for monitoring purposes), and the corresponding addresses are activated on the base transmitter. Installation is then complete.

When the host fire panel goes alarm and operates the bell output, the base transmitter is also activated. A signal is sent to each receiver to activate the vibrating pads and/or strobes. These devices will stay active until the fire alarm panel is reset or a ‘Silence Alarms’ switch is operated.



Importantly, the system is fully monitored for defects such as loss of power, or comms, or disconnected alerting devices. Any defect on the wireless system places the host fire alarm panel into defect.

This wireless remote alerting system is ideal for installations into properties occupied by hearing impaired people (on either a permanent or temporary basis). It can be used in hotels, motels, student hostels, rest homes, etc, with the receivers easily shifted to different rooms (within range of the base transmitter). It is also very easy to relocate the full system if the hearing impaired person moves to another property.

It also has an application in noisy work places - for people with or without a hearing impairment - as the receivers and alerting devices can be moved around a work area, or machinery, to alert staff of a fire or other emergency.

For more information, contact Pertronic Industries' Wellington or Auckland office.

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The demand for apartments in Auckland's CBD continues to be solid in the medium-to-upper end of the market. The **Lumina** and **Vibe** apartment buildings, shown right, form one side of **The Parc** development near Viaduct Harbour. Pertronic Apartment Modules are installed in each apartment and incorporate a hush button, allowing residents to mute the alarm tone from a local smoke detector activation in that apartment only. This hush facility is automatically deactivated if any global alarm occurs throughout the building.



The refurbished and extended **Chartwell Mall** in Hamilton is another Westfield Shoppingtown protected by Pertronic fire alarm systems. Two Pertronic F100 analogue addressable fire alarm panels are networked together to cover the main mall area and car park building, with a third F100 panel covering the cinema extension. Smoke detectors throughout the mall are programmed to operate on a "double knock" basis to reduce the risk of full evacuation from a nuisance alarm, while in the cinema complex the fire control panel is programmed to evacuate the cinemas on a progressive basis from any detector activation.

