



# The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT  
UPDATES  
9/8/23 -9/22/23**

**This week we had a very productive call training with some familiarization of WRHS. One of the training points was the operation of fire alarm panels. Over the last decade, we have seen many new fire alarm systems and panels installed throughout the town and understanding how they work is important for all firefighters as at some point you may be tasked with operating the panels.**

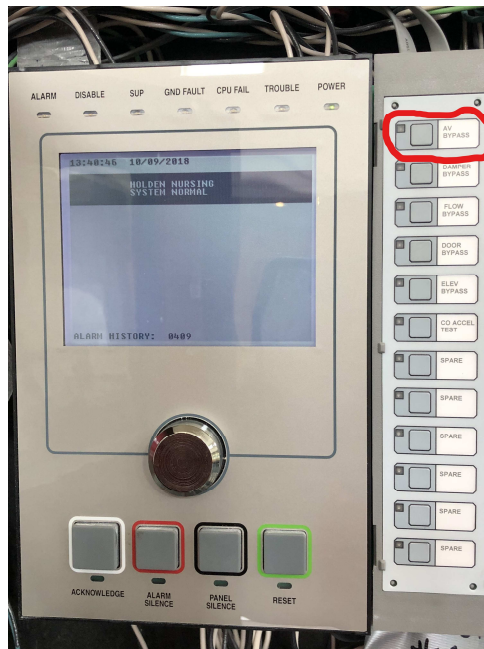
**The first step in operating the panel is actually getting into it. Most panels are locked with a proprietary key that is provided when the panel is installed. We make every attempt to ensure that such a key is included in the Knox Box on building. Simplex and American alarm use their own keys with Simplex having a “B” stamp on the key and American alarm having their logo stamped on the key. Other panels use Cat 45 keys and other versions of panel keys. Generally, these keys will not only open the panel, but will allow you to reset pull stations throughout the building.**

**Once in the panel, the first step to any operation is to acknowledge the alarm.**



**The panel shown is from the Halstead of Holden and it is very obvious where to acknowledge. Once the alarm has been acknowledged, you then can silence and reset as needed.**

**Some panels in town have other operational buttons that are often located to the right side of the panel. These offer some functionality to shut down or take off-line parts of the system. Generally we do not use these features unless there is an issue or circumstance that dictates it. For example, we will use the A/V Bypass function at 32 Mayo because the patients shelter in place. This allows us to shut down the horn strobes but still allows the panel to be in alarm while we investigate the cause.**



**The newer school panels also have this same function if necessary. As for Halstead, to the left of the panel in the previous picture, there is a button marked “city disconnect”. This will turn off the alarm system from reporting out to central station, so it should never be left on.**

**We have had a very busy construction season on Main Street this year that is not ending any time soon. They will be doing work on the gas mains this fall/winter on Main Street near Industrial Drive south. The DPW will also have a project on Chapel at Holden replacing around 2800 feet of pipe that will be ongoing so keep an eye out for closures, detours and lane changes.**

**As some may have heard, the town is looking into adding modular classrooms to the Dawson School. Currently, they are working towards adding a special town meeting to appropriate funding to cover the costs for this project. To date, we have not received any type of plans, drawings or narratives that show what this would entail but we will be meeting with the district and other town departments next week and hopefully we will get a better picture of where they are going and what it will look like from the fire protection side.**

**Finally, we are in talks with the Recreation Department regarding the annual holiday events. They will be running their successful “Halloween in Holden” program on 10/28. This is where town departments and businesses setup so that the kids can trick or treat on Main Street. We will be providing an Engine and hopefully we will get the times soon. If you are interested in taking part, please let me know. This will be a paid event.**

### **Public Education**

**The following is a message from Public Education Coordinator Joe Sposato regarding Open House: *“I ask that you please mark on your calendar, HFD Open on 10/14 from 12-3. We are going to have 2 or 3 cars for demonstrations (air bags, EHurst, Res-Q jacks), the Fire Safety Trailer, and I am in contact with the local professional teams to have their mascots come by. This event is a 4 hour paid event at your designated rate. Please let myself or Asst. Chief Montiverdi know if you are willing and able to assist”.* Open House is another of the important public events that the department puts on for the community. If you are available, please sign up to assist.**

### **Vehicles**

- 1. Car 5 – The mobile radio has been delivered and we will be setting up installation.**

- 2. Car 3 – The lightbar has been repaired by Whelen.**

### **Fire Prevention**

- 1. The Jefferson Mill Project is close to occupancy of some apartments. The fire alarm system is fully operational throughout the building, so make yourselves familiar with the location. Next week, the Deputy will be testing the alarms and doing final inspections prior to occupancy. The sprinkler system should be on line shortly.**

### **Training**

- 1. We have tentatively secured the MFA Springfield Campus Burn Building for Live Burns on 12/12. More to come on that training.**

### **Stations**

- 1. As a reminder, when not on the apparatus floor or when everyone is out, please close the bay doors to secure the building.**