

Thrifty King Grocery Store

**Location:**

Dodge City, KS

Hugoton, KS

Lamar, CO

Systems:

DSC PowerSeries Neo:

- Control Panel
- Full Message LCD Hardwired Keypad
- Keypad with PowerG transceiver
- Cellular Alarm.com Communicator
- Wireless PowerG Door/Window Contact
- Wireless PowerG PIR Motion Detector

The Thrifty King grocery store chain brought all of its stores onto a common intrusion alarm platform to make it easier for the owner and store managers to monitor and manage the system, either at the store level or remotely. PowerSeries Neo with PowerG Technology has provided the store with the ability to:

- monitor a facility with more than 30,000 square feet of space
- reliably transmit alarm signals, even though every store contained building support pillars, food shelves, refrigerators and freezers located in between the intrusion security panel, keypads and sensors

Introduction

The family-owned Thrifty King grocery store chain, with two stores in Kansas and a third in Colorado, has relied on its security systems integrator, Alert Alarm Co., for access control, video and intrusion solutions. Bringing all the stores, two of which also operate separate liquor stores, onto a common intrusion alarm platform would make it easier for the owner and store managers to monitor and manage the system, either at the store level or remotely.



Thrifty King uses DSC PowerSeries Neo, a flexible modular hybrid intrusion system, to manage the security of three different stores across two states.



Thrifty King's store managers use the same PowerSeries platform from different locations, for increased flexibility in scheduling personnel and reduction of training costs.

Challenges

For a busy retailer like Thrifty King, it was important to find and install an intrusion system that would cause minimal disruption to buildings themselves and to the day-to-day operations.

The company's Hugoton, Kansas, location was a new construction built in early 2015, while the Dodge City and Lamar, Colorado, sites had undergone major remodels within recent years.

With a wireless intrusion solution Alert Alarm could more easily customize the system to fit the configuration of each store, such as covering the front doors as well as overhead doors in the loading area, and do so without having to pull wires, which would add to the cost, labor and time involved in the project.

The owners of Thrifty King also wanted the ability to gather information from and actively monitor their intrusion system as needed, rather than having to wait to receive calls from an alarm monitoring company or police if there was a problem. It was also important for every store to have the same intrusion alarm system, as store managers are often cross-trained to cover other store locations if needed.

Solution

Working with Alert Alarm, Thrifty King chose Tyco Security Products' DSC PowerSeries Neo, a flexible modular hybrid intrusion alarm platform that captures the reliability of a hardwired system and pairs it with advanced PowerG two-way wireless communication devices to fit the needs.

"It was the wireless range that sold them on the project," said Curtis Crawford, security specialist at Alert Alarm. Crawford installed a series of keypads, door sensors and motion detectors at each site, based on the needs of the specific location.

The Dodge City store, for instance, was equipped with two keypads, five door sensors and various motion detectors, while the Lamar site needed a single keypad and four door sensors, along with various motion detectors. At the newest site in Hugoton, which was armed with keypads, door and motion sensors, the install also featured the addition of window sensors for the monitoring of the adjacent liquor store.

Even though some of the door sensors were hundreds of feet from the keypad, with building support pillars, food shelves, refrigerators and freezers located in between, no repeaters were needed, although they could be easily added to the system if signal strength became a problem because of changes to layout or other structural features within the building.

The Dodge City location is a prime example of the robust range of the system, with a 30,000 square-foot store and an estimated 300-foot distance between the keypad transmitter at the front of the store and other wireless devices located at the back of the store.

Using PowerG-enabled wireless sensors allowed Crawford and store Owner Justin Carter to place them where needed, such as on the tracks for overhead doors, without the hassle of wiring. Adding sensors, such as the ones being considered to track freezer temperatures, is easy to do within the PowerSeries Neo platform. And the long battery life within the peripherals is also important because it cuts down on calls to Alert Alarm for system maintenance.

With adaptive transmission path capabilities, PowerSeries Neo can adjust as the retail environment changes. For example, if Thrifty King sets up a merchandise display in the front of the store, the system will automatically detect an object is interfering with the transmission

path and will transmit a stronger signal from sensors to the panel to compensate for the change. When the store removes the merchandise display, the system will return to normal transmission levels, thereby saving on battery usage.

Another part of the solution that was important to Carter and his management team was the integration of PowerSeries Neo with Alarm.com, a remote interactive security management tool.

Via Alarm.com, Carter can check the armed status of his stores and the separately configured liquor stores, giving him the ability to arm and disarm the liquor store doors without impacting the grocery stores. The partitioning feature on the PowerSeries Neo panels allows Thrifty King to create this dual configuration, basically building two systems on the same platform. This approach was used at Thrifty King's locations in Dodge City, Colorado and Hugoton, Kansas.



PowerSeries Neo's adaptive transmission path technology allows the intrusion system to adjust its signal as the retail environment changes.

"PowerSeries Neo is the only reliable panel on the market today that supports multiple partitions," said Crawford. "That was another reason why we went with PowerSeries Neo."

The PowerSeries Neo system, in combination with Alarm.com, allows Carter to *"manage so many parts and pieces from a distance while providing the peace of mind that everything is set and you can check on it when you want to."*

Carter has lots of information available to him via the Alarm.com interface and can choose when and if he wants to review it. For instance, he is notified immediately if there is an issue, such as an employee who doesn't set the alarm by the specified time, or if someone is entering the liquor store at a time when it is supposed to be closed.

"It just makes you relax," said Carter, "knowing everything is set."

The Future

In the future, Thrifty King can easily add more sensors to the system to monitor and protect certain areas should they have an issue with employee theft or shoplifting. This can include adding sensors to a storage room or an area where expensive merchandise is located, such as a high priced liquor aisle, so that the store manager receives a notification every time a person enters a specific area.

PowerSeries Neo also provides Thrifty King with the capability to integrate with people tracking and a foot flow monitoring system at a later time. The system would notify the store manager about high foot traffic areas and if there are too many people congregating in a certain area of the store.

The Customer – Thrifty King

Thrifty King is a family-owned chain of three grocery stores with locations in Dodge City and Hugoton, Kansas, and Lamar, Colorado.

The Systems Integrator – Alert Alarm Co.

Alert Alarm of Moscow, Kansas, is a third-generation security integrator, providing residential and light commercial security installations throughout southwest Kansas. Started as Alert Alarm of Hawaii by brothers Darrel and Don Damon in the 1960s, the Kansas business began operation in 1971 by the family's second generation. Alert Alarm, which is now run by Curtis and Antonia Crawford, offers and installs alarms, surveillance systems and emergency notification and access control products.

The Solutions Provider – DSC

DSC Intrusion Security products from Tyco Security Products are now part of Johnson Controls, a global diversified technology and multi industrial leader serving a wide range of customers in more than 150 countries. DSC provides security professionals with products of superior quality and performance in more than 140 countries worldwide. They include interactive intrusion platforms, alarm control panels, keypads, user interfaces, detection devices, alarm communication products, and industry-leading alarm monitoring technology.

About Johnson Controls

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