

# RECORDS STORAGE

## SAFEGUARD YOUR RECORDS STORAGE FACILITY FROM FIRE AND SMOKE DAMAGE

### What Are the Risks?

Records storage facilities are designed to house documents and data that are critical to continued business operations and ensure customers compliance to law and legislation. Consistency of service and deliverability of records on a timely basis are paramount to this charter and the customers a record storage facility serves. Documents and the materials stored in these facilities are often highly flammable, so it is imperative that the records storage facilities detect the presence of smoke very early, before highly sensitive and irreplaceable customer data is destroyed and service continuity is interrupted by fire. In an industry that is dependent upon its reputation for protection and reliability, fire or smoke damage can destroy not only a customer's vital records, but also do irreparable damage to the credibility and success of the business.

### Unique Fire Challenges

The very nature of a records storage facility presents a unique challenge for early smoke detection and fire system safety design:

- Records - containing paper and media, are traditionally stored in cardboard boxes, often densely packed to the ceiling. The storage racks accommodating the boxes and the perforated steel mesh separating multi-level floors, can impede airflow, trapping smoke and delaying detection time.
- High ceilings common in storage facilities can cause smoke to stratify below the roof level where traditional detectors are located.
- The lofty, voluminous areas used for storage can dilute smoke quickly, making it difficult to detect.
- Traditional point (spot) detectors are expensive to install and maintain because detectors need to be placed on each level of a multi-level warehouse and specialised lift equipment is required for maintenance.



### Protecting Your Assets

Traditional fire protection methods, such as sprinkler systems, are designed to save lives and facilities, but not necessarily the contents or the business. Most ceiling or in-rack sprinklers are activated by the intense heat from a fire. Therefore, what stored records haven't been destroyed by smoke and flame will often be irreparably damaged by water.

Conventional detection solutions, such as point (spot) detectors, do not provide very early warning and their performance is impaired due to the unique challenges in a records storage environment. If a fire occurred, by the time enough heat is generated to trigger an alarm, the fire may spread and be too large to control.

Detecting a fire in its incipient stage is imperative. A VESDA Air-Sampling Smoke Detection system can prevent damage to vital records by detecting a fire incident before smoke is visible to the human eye.

A VESDA system works by continuously and proactively samples the air through a series of pipes and centrally located detectors to detect the presence of smoke before facilities, records and business continuity is compromised.

## Why Very Early Warning Smoke Detection?

- A VESDA system detects a fire in the incipient stage, providing time to respond before damage is done to critical assets and business continuity is disrupted.
- A single detector can cost effectively cover a very large area.
- Detectors can be placed in a convenient location for ease of maintenance and testing and one detector can cover multiple levels.
- In the case of relocation, detectors can be easily and inexpensively transferred to another facility.
- The use of powerful central monitoring software allows you to manage the system both locally and remotely, ensuring an immediate response to any incident.
- Multiple alarm thresholds seamlessly interface with building management systems, the fire brigade and suppression systems.
- Xtralis has developed a fire industry standard for record storage fire system design, install, testing and maintenance of air-sampling smoke detectors, which has been installed and tested in many of the worlds leading record storage facilities for years.

Preservation is a key priority of any records storage facility and the detection of fire at the earliest possible stage can mean the difference to the survival of the building, its contents, life and business.

## **The world's leading records storage companies safeguard their facilities and customers assets with VESDA**

- Iron Mountain
- RECALL
- OEC
- GRACE
- Pacific Archives
- Washington Archives
- Guangzhou Metro Archives
- Building
- Pennsylvania State Archives

## Why VESDA?

- Earliest possible warning of a fire
- Large coverage area per detector
- Reliable performance
- Flexible installation and positioning of detectors and detection points
- Powerful event logging, reporting and alarm transmission
- Easy access to detector controller
- Centralized monitoring
- Low cost and convenient maintenance
- Economical to relocate