

**MEDIA RELEASE
JANUARY 2012**

Assess fire protection needs accurately - Wormald

If a fire occurs, being adequately prepared will help to minimise fire damage to people and property. However, according to fire protection specialist Wormald, many companies continue to make simple mistakes which can affect their level of fire protection.

Fire protection equipment & systems

“Having basic fire protection equipment is essential for a business or facility of any size, but it is important that the correct fire protection equipment is in place”, says Garry Kwok, National Technical Services Manager at Wormald. “For example a water fire extinguisher should never be used on an electrical switchboard; electrical fires are best treated with powder or carbon dioxide extinguishers.”

“Carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the premises will help identify potential fire hazards and help determine the fire protection solution required - whether it is a basic fire extinguisher or fire hose reel, a fire sprinkler system, a passive fire solution or a more advanced fire detection and suppression system.”

Wormald’s range of fire suppression systems includes the VanQuish™ system, a ‘dry’ system specifically designed for cold storage facilities and the environmentally-friendly Inergen® gaseous fire suppression system, which is suitable for data centres and facilities housing mission critical equipment.

Staff training

In addition to having the correct fire protection equipment in place staff members, particularly those assigned to a company’s fire safety team, should be fully briefed and trained on what to do in the event of a fire. According to Kwok, fire wardens have a considerable amount of responsibility for the wellbeing of a building’s occupants but they are often unaware of the full extent of their duties.

“Basic fire safety training should be provided to all staff and it is important that each staff member is aware of the various classes of fire and the appropriate fire equipment to be used for each. Fire wardens should be fully trained on their responsibilities, fire equipment and the emergency warning and communication systems in their premises.”

Signage

Providing appropriate signage is also essential to denote the proper use of fire equipment. Kwok continues, “It is very important that wherever a fire extinguisher or other fire safety equipment is located, the correct signage is provided so a user knows exactly what it should be used for. It is



equally important that fire exit signs are in place so that, in the event of an evacuation, people can be directed to escape potential danger quickly.”

Servicing and maintenance

Kwok also advises that regular servicing and maintenance of fire equipment and fire protection systems are essential to help ensure that they will work appropriately if and when required. “Well-maintained fire systems can help to save lives and property”, he says.

In addition to providing a broad range of fire protection equipment and solutions, Wormald also offers a number of fire safety training courses. For further information on Wormald’s services, call 133 166 or visit www.wormald.com.au.

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Media - for further information please contact:

Claire Smith or Corrina Anderson, Write Away Communication + Events

Ph: 02 9978 1400 Email: claire@writeaway.com.au, corrina@writeaway.com.au

Claire Hartley, Wormald

Ph 02 9638 8577, Email: clhartley@tycoint.com

About Wormald

Wormald is Australasia’s leading provider of fire protection solutions and has been protecting people and property since 1889. Operating in nearly 40 locations throughout Australia, Wormald designs, manufactures, installs and services fire detection and protection equipment to a wide variety of industries including building and construction, mining, healthcare, military, oil & gas, leisure management, corporate, education and IT&T. Wormald also provides a comprehensive range of fire services from engineering advice to fire safety training. www.wormald.com.au

About Tyco Fire Protection Services Asia Pacific

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