



TWO TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES: DUAL INCIDENT RESPONSE SCENARIO

In today's high-speed telecommunications arena, uptime is everything. For one large U.S.-based telecom provider, two distinct fire occurrences at separate facilities and incidents at data center switch sites present significant threats to infrastructure, business continuity, and customer confidence. Thanks to specialized fire protection systems conceived and deployed by Orr Protection, both incidents were quickly resolved without damage or injury.

Facility 1:

The Challenge:

A sodium-nickel battery within a battery rack ignited at one of Austin, TX's key telecom hubs. The situation escalated quickly as leaking electrolyte fluid burned through the rack beneath and propagated heat upwards, endangering other battery stacks. The room was filled with flames and soot, putting critical infrastructure and related business services at significant risk. Prompt and effective action was essential to avoid a disaster.

The Solution:

A fast-response fire suppression system from Orr Protection was automatically activated—triggered by spot-type heat detectors. It instantly released a suppression agent that prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent racks or causing further damage. Facility personnel followed up with manual fire extinguishers to cool any remaining hotspots and eliminate the risk of re-ignition. The seamless blend of automated and manual responses highlighted the importance of a well-integrated fire strategy.

Scope of Work:

The project involved comprehensive engineering, product upgrades, installation, and testing:

- Specialized fire detection systems to sense temperature spikes and flames within battery environments
- Automatic suppression systems to reduce potential damage and minimize downtime
- Ongoing maintenance and inspections to ensure emergency preparedness

The Result:

Thanks to the responsive systems implemented by Orr Protection, the fire was extinguished swiftly, damage was contained to a small area, and no injuries occurred. Most importantly, telecom operations continued uninterrupted, avoiding disruption for the businesses that depend on this facility.

Facility 2:



The Issue:

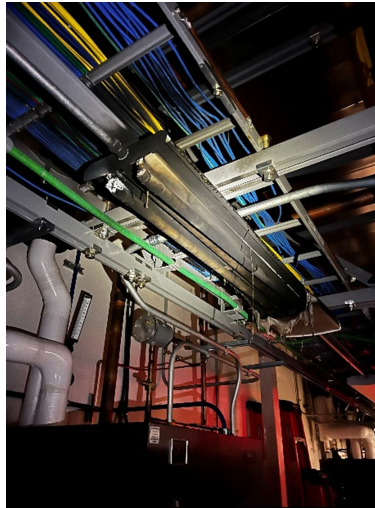
A second critical incident occurred at a densely packed data center switch facility. After a lighting retrofit introduced new LED bulbs, the existing old ballast fixtures—which had not been replaced—proved incompatible, creating a serious fire hazard. The risk was clear in a setting where even a moment of downtime has costly consequences.

The Solution:

Orr Protection had proactively equipped the facility with a dual-layered fire protection system, which included:

- VESDA (Very Early Smoke Detection Apparatus): Continuously monitored air for smoke particles and provided ultra-early warning—even before standard smoke alarms activated
- Kidde FM-200 Clean Agent System: A fast-acting, zero-residue suppression agent ideal for electronics and IT environments

When the faulty fixture began smoldering, the VESDA system detected smoke before traditional alarms sounded. Notified by the alert, an operator investigated and located an active flame in the overhead lighting. They manually triggered the FM-200 system, extinguishing the fire without activating sprinkler systems or damaging sensitive equipment.



Scope of Work:

- VESDA system installation for ultra-early smoke detection
- Clean agent fire suppression with FM-200 integration
- NFPA 75 and NFPA 76 compliance
- On-site training for staff to respond effectively

The Result:

Due to the advanced detection and immediate suppression, the fire was fully contained with no downtime, equipment damage, or interruption to operations. What could have been a costly disaster became a controlled, inconsequential event.

Why Industry Executives Trust Orr Protection:

Orr Protection's expertise in protecting mission-critical environments is unmatched. Whether safeguarding a telecom hub or a data center, their solutions combine cutting-edge technology, code compliance, and expert training to minimize risks and ensure operations remain secure.

With systems like VESDA and FM-200, combined with reliable maintenance and support, Orr Protection doesn't just prevent fires—they deliver peace of mind for the organizations that cannot afford even a second of disruption.



Orr Protection
2100 Nelson Miller Parkway
Louisville, KY 40223-2186 USA

tel: 1.800.347.9677
Orrprotection.com/datacenter