

Synopsis Incorrect Area Pressure Alarm Set Points Lead to Major Disruption in Large Intensive Care Unit

Severity Construction

Source Not Disclosed

Source Date Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Area pressure alarms at a major critical-care hospital were not set to activate at +/- 20% of the normal operating pressures at the time of installation. Instead, the alarms would activate either before or after the master alarms activated. This caused major confusion, concern and disruption of the medical staff when line pressures changed due to equipment malfunction.

Previous testing of the alarms had only compared the incorrect set point pressures to the actual pressures at the point of alarm activation. But, the set points were never adjusted to the normal operating pressures.