



Illustrative image representing a modern casino resort project.

- **Client:** Regional Electrical Contractor
- **Location:** Midwestern City, USA
- **Industry:** Hospitality/Gaming
- **Services Provided:** Design-Build Fire Alarm and Integrated Voice Evacuation System

## The Challenge: Building Safety on an Accelerated Schedule

A large Gaming and Hospitality Group was undertaking the new construction of a 7-story resort and casino. The project required a sophisticated, code-compliant fire alarm and voice evacuation system. Midwest Alarm Services (MWAS) served as a subcontractor to the project's Regional Electrical Contractor.

The project presented three major hurdles:

- **Design-Build Scope and Timeline:** This was a design-build project, meaning MWAS was responsible for the entire system design, wiring, and installation. With an extremely aggressive 4-to-5-month timeline, the team faced significant pressure to complete the installation and programming on schedule.
- **Complex Acoustic Environment:** A system was needed where alarms and voice messages could be clearly heard over the high noise levels generated on the casino floor.
- **Unique Programming Requirements:** The system required advanced programming to integrate both a complex positive alarm sequence with a unique floor-above and floor-below voice messaging capability—a combination that proved to be a first for the manufacturer.

The client selected MWAS based on their reputation, quality products, and confidence in their ability to deliver the complex system on time.



Illustrative image representing a modern casino interior environment.

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## The Solution: Technical Expertise and Dedicated Execution

MWAS provided a comprehensive solution utilizing a high-performance system and showcasing deep technical mastery in custom programming.

### Technical Implementation

MWAS specified, wired, and installed a complete fire alarm and voice evacuation system centered around the Potter IPA-4000V Integrated Voice Emergency Evacuation Panel. The total scope included:

- **Devices:** Installation of 480 AV devices, 80 smoke detectors, sprinkler risers, and 3 annunciators.
- **Core Infrastructure:** Installation of 7 amplifiers and 10 power supplies.
- **Integration:** Successful integration with the building's suppression and three clean agent systems (installed by a different company).

### Mastering Unprecedented Programming

The most critical challenge was the programming required to link the security protocol with the voice evacuation system.

- **Positive Alarm Sequence:** The system was programmed for the required NFPA 72 Section 23.8.1.2 sequence, designed to prevent unnecessary evacuation:
  1. Alarm must be acknowledged by trained personnel within 15 seconds
  2. If not acknowledged, then full alarm
  3. Trained personnel have 180 seconds to evaluate and reset the system
  4. If not reset in 180 seconds, then full alarm
  5. If a second detector is actuated during the 180 seconds, then full alarm
  6. If any other initiating device actuates then full alarm
- **Unique Voice Messaging:** This positive alarm sequence had to be integrated with the system's ability to send specific voice messaging to the floor above and the floor below the point of origin. This unique integration was the first time Potter had encountered this requirement.
- **Manufacturer Collaboration:** The lead MWAS technician, Georg Schutte, developed the initial programming that was then sent to Potter's engineers, allowing them to finalize the solution necessary for this complex integration.

### Project Execution and Dedication

The success of the project hinged on the extraordinary effort of the MWAS installation team:

- **Unwavering Commitment:** Georg Schutte, the lead technician, was praised for his dedication, working extremely long days, often 7 days a week, to ensure the project met the condensed timeline.
- **Rigorous Coordination:** The MWAS team adhered to all project safety requirements and successfully navigated site constraints—such as only being able to work in finished areas and coordinating with an onsite elevator operator—through weekly and sometimes daily progress meetings with the Regional Electrical Contractor and other trades.

## Results and Benefits: Safety, Reliability, and Trust

MWAS fulfilled all expectations, delivering the complex, custom-engineered life safety system on time and ensuring full code compliance.

- **Occupant Safety and Code Compliance:** The system met the core objective: implementing a high-decibel fire alarm and voice evacuation system that fully complies with NFPA 72 and ensures occupant safety in the event of an emergency.
- **Zero Issues:** Since completion, the system has demonstrated high reliability with no false alarms and no service calls required for corrective work.
- **Proven Partnership:** The high quality of the work and the commitment to the deadline resulted in the client's decision to partner with MWAS for a second casino project, demonstrating exceptional trust in the company's capabilities.

By overcoming unprecedented technical challenges and maintaining an unwavering commitment to the schedule, Midwest Alarm Services cemented its reputation as a trusted partner capable of delivering complex, life-safety solutions for the demanding gaming and hospitality sector.

Visit [mw-as.com](http://mw-as.com) to learn more.

