



Alarm Management

TURN NOISE INTO KNOWLEDGE

Effective alarms are integral to the safety and efficiency of all process industries. Each alarm requires an operator action, but process plants and pipelines are overwhelmed with nuisance alarms that mask the critical ones. When too many alarms overwhelm or cause complacency, issues get lost in the noise. How can alarms be managed more effectively?

DON'T BE ALARMED When managed correctly, alarms improve plant safety, operator efficiency, and they reduce trips, maintenance costs, and environmental excursions.

SAFETY ISN'T IN NUMBERS One of the threats to successful alarm management is the number and frequency of alarms. Standards organizations like EEMUA and ISA recommend no more than an average of 300 alarms/day or 1-2 alarms/10 minutes, but actual industry averages are well above that.



ALARMING COSTS

The price to pay for ineffective alarm management is high.



CUT THROUGH THE NOISE

- Remember that alarm management is proactive; DCS/SCADA alarming is reactive
- Think quality of alarms over quantity
- Design alarms for the operator:
 - Understandable alarm descriptions
 - Just-in-time alarms (not too early or too late)
- Not everything needs to be alarmed:
 - Define pre-trip alarms instead of trip alarms
 - Avoid redundant or duplicate alarms
- Silence the unnecessary:
 - Expect 50% reduction of active alarms by doing alarm and event analysis
 - Expect 75% improvement in total alarm count by doing alarm rationalization

HONEYWELL

