



# EPS

ENGINEERED PROTECTION  
SYSTEMS, INC.

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## PLEASE ROUTE TO CHIEF OF SECURITY

### GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Our newsletter for this quarter features Mr. Tom Smith, Director of Facilities for Grand Rapids Community College. Tom joined the community college staff in September, 1997. The facilities management staff is responsible for a great variety of things including day-to-day maintenance/cleaning, all electrical work, HVAC equipment, installation and upkeep, and management of multi-million dollar building projects. There are currently 85 employees in the facilities management staff, ranging from an architect to skilled trade persons.

Tom was a career officer in the U.S. Air Force, retiring after 20 years of service. His service career was dedicated to facility management assignments at various worldwide Federal installations. He is now in his second career in facility management in industry related tasks. He worked for the University of Scranton prior to accepting the GRCC position.

GRCC has had continued growth over the last two decades. There are approximately 13,500 full and part time students attending GRCC. In addition, the college provides non-credit customized training and services, such as: seminars, diversity lecture series, and adult education, for almost 25,000 Kent County residents on an annual basis. This growth in student population has resulted in increased responsibilities for the facilities management staff.

Several major building projects at GRCC are underway or have just been completed. The Calkins Science Center on the main campus opened in December 2000, and the Patrick A. Thompson Michigan Technical Education Center (MTEC) in Ottawa County was completed in the summer of 2000. The GRCC Main Building which houses classrooms, laboratories, offices, administrative services, etc., is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation of the infrastructure. Additionally, because of the strong occupational ties to the community, the Tassell MTEC is in the beginning stages of construction in the southwest part of Grand Rapids. The MTEC will provide training ranging from skilled trades to automotive repair. Despite the growth of GRCC, the college still maintains close academic ties through concurrent enrollment agreements with Ferris State University and Grand Valley State University.

**EPS** has provided alarm service to GRCC for nearly 30 years. We first installed boiler alarm monitoring systems in Grand Rapids Junior College facilities in 1972. We now provide a complete range of fire, intrusion, and supervisory alarm systems, as well as card access and closed circuit television (CCTV) systems throughout the GRCC complex.

You may get further information about GRCC at [GRCC@post.grcc.cc.mi.us](mailto:GRCC@post.grcc.cc.mi.us). Contact **EPS** at [sales@epssecurity.com](mailto:sales@epssecurity.com).

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**TOM SMITH, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES**

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Since 1955

## IF A FIRE STARTS IN THE KITCHEN ...

- ◆ If a pan fire starts on the stove top, carefully slide a lid or larger pan over the fire and then turn off the burner. Never pour water on a grease fire because the splashed grease can ignite combustibles in your kitchen, spreading the fire.
- ◆ Don't try to carry a pan that is on fire outside or to the sink. This is extremely dangerous and could ignite your clothing or other combustibles you may pass with the pan.
- ◆ If a pan fire starts inside the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to suffocate the flames.
- ◆ If a fire starts inside your microwave, keep the door closed, push the stop switch, and then unplug the unit. Keep the door closed until the fire is out.
- ◆ In all cases, call the fire department if the fire does not go out immediately.

## How Can You Tell if Your Child is Using Drugs?

- ◆ Change in moods - more irritable, secretive, withdrawn, overly sensitive, inappropriately angry, euphoric.
- ◆ Less responsible - late coming home, late for school or class, dishonest.
- ◆ Changing friends or changing life-styles - new interests, unexplained cash.
- ◆ Physical deterioration - difficulty in concentration, loss of coordination, loss of weight, unhealthy appearance.

## Child Safety - School Policy

It is always a good idea to check with your children's school about their policies concerning absences and release of your children to anyone other than you. Be sure the school will not accept phone calls stating that the children will be picked up by someone other than their parents, and that the school will notify you if your child is not in class. There may be a "Parent Alert" program, or contact a local volunteer group such as the American Association of Retired Persons about starting one. This kind of program uses volunteers to call parents (even at their jobs), if their children are not at school.

## Prevent Young Children From Burns

Very painful injuries occur when babies and toddlers begin reaching for objects, touch hot surfaces or spill hot liquids on themselves. Children can be burned by hot water, stoves, open fires, matches and lighters. Here are some prevention tips:

- ◆ Don't eat, drink or carry anything hot while holding a child.
- ◆ Lower hot water tank temperature to 120-125 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ◆ Never leave hot beverages or food within a child's reach.
- ◆ Put children in a playpen, high chair or crib while cooking.
- ◆ Put screens around fireplaces or wood stoves
- ◆ Use burners at the back of the stove and turn pot handles inward.

