



IoT Smart Sensor Saves The Day Versatility Shapes the Future of Security For Communities Coast to Coast

Concern for Independent Living, Inc. (Concern Housing) located in New York, is a non-profit agency committed to helping individuals and families live in the community with dignity and enhanced opportunities through the provision of housing and support services. The agency offers a variety of housing options with individualized support services designed to support personal growth and independence. It is known as one of the largest housing agencies of its kind in New York State and consists of over 129 sites located in Suffolk County, Nassau County, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. The sites range from scattered apartments and single-family homes to larger congregate settings and multi-family apartment buildings. With nearly 1500 residents, the agency was looking for a way to properly protect people and avoid fire hazards, such as smoking. As their housing community continues to expand and grow - two new apartment buildings are currently in the works and being built in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Over the years, Concern Housing has experienced incidents of residents smoking inside their apartments that have caused fires and the agency was focused on preventing any future tragedies. Since Concern Housing does not permit smoking indoors at any of their locations, they wanted an easy way to identify any rule breakers. Each building/residence has a designated area outside for smokers, but unfortunately there were still some individuals who did not comply with agency policy no matter how many warnings were issued. Some residents continued to smoke or vape in their units, which was a violation of their lease. To keep operations flowing smoothly, the agency employs 360 staff members that consist of executive management and support teams who are all focused on the well-being of their residents. The time had come to take action and mitigate any future fire risks. In early 2020, the management team started searching for various types of smoke detectors and found an IoT smart sensor that stood out from the crowd.

FAST FACTS

Customer

Concern for Independent Living, Inc.
(Concern Housing)

Industry

Public Housing

Geography

New York

Number of Apartment Complexes

129

Number of HALO Units

262 with more to be installed

The Issue

Enforce a smoke free policy throughout their housing buildings by identifying individuals who are smoking and vaping in the facility with the ability to provide proof of the infraction.

How we helped

The HALO Smart Sensor provides real-time alerts and notifications to indicate smoking and vaping events.



HALO IOT SMART SENSOR SPARKS INTEREST

Upon finding IPVideo Corporation's HALO IoT Smart Sensor and NY based integrator A+ Technology & Security Solutions, an expert in technology convergence, school safety/security, and safe city initiatives; Concern Housing knew it had finally found the fire safety solution they were looking for over the years. The management team wanted to learn more about the HALO IoT Smart Sensor as it sparked their interest as the only solution to their smoking and vaping problem. A decision was made in 2020 to implement a demo program where 20 HALO devices were installed in various buildings to catch smokers and proved to be a huge success. Even though the agency was not using the device for any other applications other than smoke/vape detection, the sensor could monitor so much more if needed. What makes this sensor unique was that it could also be used for air quality monitoring, gunshot detection, noise alerts, emergency key word alerting, panic buttons, and much more, all which do not use a camera or record audio and can be used in privacy areas, such as bathrooms. However, the agency was solely focused on smoking/vaping alerts at this time and ensuring that any type of fire hazards could be prevented with HALO.

"Our decision to select HALO was based on the support we received from A+ Technology and how well they worked with our design teams, general contractors, and our staff/consultants" states Erika Green, Direct of Property Management at Concern Housing. "They are extremely knowledgeable and responsive and have been a valuable resource to us as we look to make our housing as safe as possible for all of our residents."

SMART SENSOR REDUCES FIRE RISK

With a successful pilot program in 2020, the decision was made by the management team to move forward with the installation and deploy 262 HALO IoT Smart Sensors in apartments throughout the various sites/buildings. *"Our focus at Concern Housing is keeping people safe and catching individuals who were non-compliant to our non-smoking policy was critical,"* says Green. HALO allowed the agency to be able to provide prompt, effective feedback to residents who were smoking in their units, so the behavior could be strongly discouraged. Concern Housing takes security seriously and deployed an access control and video surveillance system in the larger buildings that are monitored by security guards.

With project plans including installing over 399 HALO devices in total throughout all the buildings, Concern Housing knew that it had finally found the right solution to keep residents safe day and night. *"We were alerted right away by the HALO devices with text and email alerts going directly to our management team and security,"* says Green. Reliability was key to the agency as it can even alert staff of sensor damage through an alarm triggered if any of the sensors are tampered with or disengaged by individuals. In fact, Concern Housing has received thousands of alerts since 2020, which has led them directly to the individuals smoking or vaping inside apartments. In some instances, the same individual kept setting off the alerts over and over again which helped the staff "be in the know" of what is going on inside all their buildings.

HALO allowed staff members the ability to deal with the problem directly by speaking to individuals who were breaking the rules and convince them to stop smoking and vaping inside their units. Without the sensor device, there was no way for the management team to pinpoint the culprits and try to mitigate risks.

Over the years, HALO has become known for its broad range of applications such as gunshot detection, keyword alerting, air quality monitoring, vaping, smoking, etc. and continues to be known in the industry as an IoT Smart Sensor going beyond just vaping. *"The need for security while maintaining individual privacy is in high demand,"* said David Antar, President at IPVideo Corporation. *"With HALO and the added safety features and custom sensor options, we can address the security & privacy dilemma in significant ways, further providing our clients with peace of mind."* As other dangers continue to rear its ugly head; facilities from coast to coast can rest easy knowing that there is a simple, easy solution out there for them that can address all their safety concerns with just one device.

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