FENWAL CONTROLS

Spring 2021

The Front Burner

A Quarterly Newsletter Highlighting Product & Industry News

Heating up Outdoor Dining

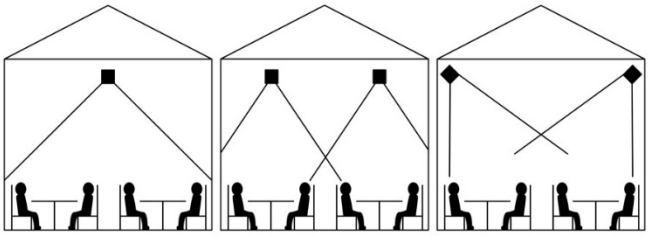
This last year has certainly not been what we all expected, especially when it comes to restaurants and dining. Outdoor dining, already popular in Europe and abroad, became the new normal but came with some challenges. Heating up that outdoor dining space to extend the season became critical to restaurant success and to the customers experience.

Infrared heaters work well in these outdoor environments because they don't heat the air, they directly heat the people, floors, and contents under them. There are electric and gas-fired infrared heaters on the market, however, gas-fired infrared heaters provide more flexibility when considering temporary or permanent installations. Quality constructed heaters may include the following features: powder coated construction, stainless-steel hardware, and aluminum reflectors to better withstand the elements.

Portable "mushroom" heaters might be a temporary help, but in the long term they can be a headache. They don't tend to heat large areas well, and in poor weather and wind the units will blow over and get damaged. Their small propane bottles frequently run out during use, need to be changed by restaurant staff instead of helping customers, and then must be brought to a filling station after hours to be ready for the next day. Low-intensity infrared heaters will heat larger areas, are securely mounted to the structure, and connect to the building's propane or natural gas supply to provide continuous operation.

Installing heating in traditional outdoor spaces can be challenging, but a recent webinar by Roberts Gordon explained the challenges of heating outdoor dining spaces and different approaches that can successfully make patrons more comfortable.

In their educational webinar, the focus was selecting the correct type and size heater to match the space. Discussion included topics such as: Solid or open roof, no walls or partial walls, permanent structures versus tents, and height of ceiling. All these factors play an important role in selecting and installing the correct heater. Roberts Gordon also provided examples of heating calculations that considered the space type, heating degree days, estimating base load, and wind corrections to properly size the heater.



Fenwal Controls is proud to supply Roberts Gordon with gas ignition controls used in many of their heaters.

ROBERTS GORDON®

Detect-A-Fire® Principles

Have you wondered what makes the Detect-A-Fire® rate compensated heat detectors different from other products on the market? Our new technical article provides users an understanding of how they operate and may teach you something new.

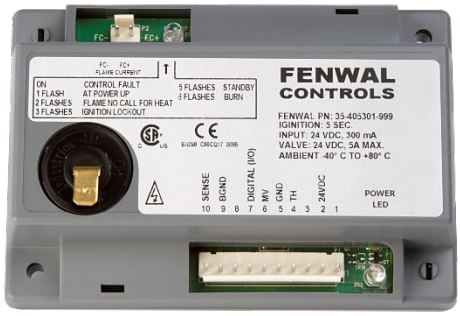
The property of rate compensation allows for the D-A-F to react differently with different rate-of-rise fire conditions. In a slow fire condition, the D-A-F activates near its calibrated setpoint. In fast fire conditions, the D-A-F activates below its calibration temperature, sometimes called pre-alerting. What this is really doing is compensating for the different rate that air heats vs the metal of the D-A-F heats.

The D-A-F design takes into account that the outer shell heats faster than the internal construction. The faster the rate of rise of the fire, the lower the temperature the D-A-F will activate to ensure the surrounding air temperature is not going above the calibrated activation temperature.

You can also read about how the D-A-F is factory calibrated and tested. Our factory has extensive processes for thermal stabilization, burn-in, calibration, and verifying every D-A-F through 100% functional testing.

Click here to read our D-A-F Principles technical article

DC Voltage Controls



The 35-40 series of direct spark gas ignition controls operates on either 12 or 24 VDC. Over the past few years, we have received increased request from OEMs to provide DC controls with all the features typically found in our AC powered controls. As appliances become more advanced and they increase the amount of electronics within, they have increased components and boards that operate on DC power. The 35-40 has similar features to that of our 24VAC 35-60 series and of our 120VAC 35-70 series.

As OEMs grow their business internationally, they are often challenged by the different line voltages and frequencies in various countries. Universal power supplies in the market today, convert 100-240VAC (50-60HZ) line power to clean DC voltages that are more compatible with standard electronics. With the 35-40 series meeting the new harmonized standard for gas ignition controls, a single appliance could now ship almost anywhere in the world without the need to change any components.

Learn more about the 35-40 series today.

Fenwal Controls 35-40

Questions with your control systems?
Contact our Sales Managers: Bill Sager, Mark Tully, or Meagan O'Brien
Or find a representative near you at fenwalcontrols.com

Kidde-Fenwal, Inc. | 400 Main Street, Ashland, MA 01721