On practically any given day, America is bombarded with headlines about campus shootings and other school, college and healthcare facility security incidents. This steady stream of scary news has prompted campuses large and small to adopt a wide variety of technology solutions so they can protect their people, property and other assets.

The challenge for many smaller organizations, however, is that often they find themselves searching in vain for solutions that will appropriately meet their safety and security needs in a budget-friendly way.

“Either they have an elaborate system, or they have nothing at all,” says Todd Keller, owner and president of Speco Technologies, which is a leading provider of video and audio security solutions. “If the campus doesn’t have anything, that leaves the organization vulnerable.”

This problem is pervasive. About 40 percent of American colleges enroll 1,000 or fewer students, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, according to Public School Review, 20 states have average K-12 school populations of less than 400 students per campus.

So what is a small campus or organization to do? Buy a solution with lots of bells and whistles that it doesn’t need? Or on the other end of the spectrum, should it do nothing?

Fortunately, there is a middle path to address this conundrum.

Speco Technologies offers the SecureGuard Video Management System, which now can trigger notifications during emergencies to employees so they can take the necessary steps to protect themselves and notify first responders.

Emergency notification, gunshot detection, panic alarms and facial recognition technologies are available to small campuses with limited budgets if they know where to look.

Speco Technologies provides affordable solution

Speco Technologies offers the SecureGuard Video Management System, which now can trigger notifications during emergencies to employees so they can take the necessary steps to protect themselves and notify first responders.

The affordable SecureGuard uses video analytics and sensor devices to identify gunshots and other issues. When a dangerous situation is detected, the system automatically sends notifications to the cell phones of administrators, teachers, clinicians and other stakeholders who have signed up to receive emergency alerts.

This enables them to respond effectively to an incident,
keeping themselves, their students and patients safe. For example, in the event of a shooting, rather than employees running to see what is happening, which could put them in harm’s way, Speco’s SecureGuard lets them know that they need to lockdown or evacuate to stay safe. At the same time, the system can summon help from campus police, security or other local first responders to neutralize the threat.

The system also has a panic button, which is hardwired or can be activated via a mobile phone app (or both). When there are signs of trouble, an employee, nurse, administrator, faculty member or other authorized individual can press the button. When the panic alarm is activated, SecureGuard sends a notification to other staff members’ mobile phones.

The panic alarm feature can augment visitor management policies at the front entrance of a school, hospital or small business. For example, at a high school, if a non-custodial parent, former student with a history of concerning behavior or other unauthorized individual comes onto campus and creates an issue, a school secretary or other employee can activate the panic button, which then sends out an alert to other staff members.

**AUTOMATION IMPROVES RESPONSE TIME**

However, in some cases, such as when shots are fired, a person on campus might not have the time or wherewithal to press a duress button. When this type of incident happens, with Speco's SecureGuard no human action is needed to send out an emergency notification because the solution detects the activity and sends out the alert automatically.

The system also has facial recognition, which can identify individuals who are not authorized to be on campus. For example, the feature could identify a nurse’s estranged spouse who has been served with a no-contact order. Or, it

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**Gunshot detection equipment can integrate with Speco Technology’s SecureGuard so that when gunfire is detected, campus staff, teachers and administrators will be automatically notified.**  
*Photo courtesy Speco Technologies*
could identify a terminated employee who has made threats to the facility. The system does this by scanning a photo of that individual or using images of that person taken by the facility’s security cameras.

Once the system identifies the unauthorized person, emergency notifications are sent out so that employees can take protective actions and first responders can be summoned. Additionally, an audible warning can be broadcast where the unauthorized individual is located, instructing them to leave the premises immediately.

SCALABILITY, INTEROPERABILITY HELP CONTROL COSTS
Another important feature of Speco’s SecureGuard is that it is scalable and can be programmed so emergency messages are broadcast to a wide variety of devices. These devices can include not only cell phones, but also public address systems, digital signage, computer pop-up screens and more.

“If we just want to do text, we can. If we want it to tie into a standalone audio system, we can. If we want it to tie into a school system and be a complete solution, we can do that as well,” Keller says.

If the campus has a video monitor, administrators and on-campus public safety can view the location of where the alert originates. This enables staff and first responders to quickly and effectively address the issue.

All of this functionality may sound too expensive for a small campus budget, but SecureGuard is affordable. That’s because many schools, universities, healthcare facilities and small businesses already have security cameras, emergency notification devices and other equipment from Speco or other security technology manufacturers that can integrate with SecureGuard. Because of this, SecureGuard is very affordable. Organizations can use the equipment they already have to take advantage of SecureGuard’s features.

SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ISN’T JUST FOR LARGE ORGANIZATIONS
With Speco’s SecureGuard, smaller campuses and organizations can enjoy the peace of mind that comes with today’s advanced security technology. No longer is that a luxury reserved for larger campuses, organizations and businesses. No longer must a small school, college, hospital or business do without any security or buy a system that has too many features it will never use. SecureGuard offers an alternative that is attainable, affordable, scalable and secure.