

# Door Security + Safety

DHI'S PUBLICATION FOR DOOR SECURITY + SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

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## Opening Doors to Accessibility

INSIDE:

- + MAXIMIZING BENEFITS OF ADA COMMERCIAL DOOR ACCESSIBILITY
- + MAKING SPACE FOR ACCESSIBILITY
- + WEATHERING THE STORM
- + 5 KEYS TO SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS FOR DOOR SECURITY AND SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

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Security Door Controls

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# REMEMBERING WHAT WE BRING TO THE PARTY



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**AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF PARTICIPATING ON THE DHI MEDIA + EDITORIAL BOARD (M+EB), I AM HONORED TO BE SELECTED BY MY PEERS AS THE NEW CHAIR OF THE M+EB. THANK YOU TO RECENT CHAIR CRAIG CHABOT OF NORWOOD HARDWARE AND SUPPLY; AL RICKARD, DOOR SECURITY + SAFETY MAGAZINE EDITOR; AND ALL THE OTHER M+EB MEMBERS AND DHI STAFF FOR THEIR GENEROUS AND ONGOING SUPPORT.**

The pace of technological change is accelerating with every passing year. This change provides more opportunities for us to help make our world a safer, more secure place using our expertise as door, hardware and security professionals.

It behooves us to remember how we arrived here and why our expertise is an invaluable resource to the markets – new and retrofit – that we serve. We must stay ahead of the market in evaluating new technologies so they can be properly applied to meet demand and ensure they are not misapplied when meeting security and fire life safety code compliance.

Before the Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago in 1903 – resulting in 602 deaths – there were no widely accepted national building standards or fire safety codes for doors, exit lights, sprinklers or fire alarms that we all take for granted today. In response, the Hugh Elmer Clark and Bros. Company, Von Duprin and others developed the panic bar – an industry staple – so a building’s occupants could escape in an emergency. These early iterations of the panic bar are on display at the Lock Museum of America in Terryville, Connecticut, and are shown in the photo on this page.

Unfortunately, it took the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City in 1911 – where 162 people perished – to spur more fire and building code improvements. These deaths resulted from a tragedy of fatal errors, including the illegal locking of stairwell doors.

My introduction to our industry began in the early 1990s when the advertising agency where I worked acquired Security Door Controls (SDC) as a client and I was the SDC account executive. What an introduction! I sat at the table with Art Geringer – SDC’s founder – and one of the architects of the modern access control industry. Art, and many others like Irving Saphirstein of Locknetics, ushered in the electrification of door hardware for security, safety, risk management and code compliance.

Art instilled in me that no matter what problem the invention solved, it must always address durability, reliability and most importantly, code compliance.

Fast forward to today. How can technology continue to help meet code compliance? It’s up to us to consider how innovations such as mobile apps, cloud-based computing, communication protocols, data and artificial intelligence can help meet fire and life safety code requirements. We must consider the ramifications of implementation and avoid unintended consequences. What happens when the power is out? What about cybersecurity? How can bad actors defeat our systems?

Fortunately, nine times each year, *Door Security + Safety* magazine provides curated content from industry experts developed around important themes and focused on relevant products to help us do our jobs. It serves to remind us that whatever the technology or opportunity is, we know how to best implement it because we remember, and we’re always well-informed. +



In response to tragic fires in the early 1900s, the Hugh Elmer Clark and Bros. Company, Von Duprin and others developed the panic bar so a building’s occupants could escape in an emergency. These early iterations of the panic bar are on display at the Lock Museum of America in Terryville, Connecticut.