



For Immediate Release

PDI Announces Corporate Promotions and Personnel Additions to the PDI Team

San Antonio, TX – April 15, 2017

Protection Development, Incorporated (PDI) is pleased to announce the following Corporate Appointments, as well personnel additions to the PDI team:



David Emler

David R. Emler, B.Sc., ICC CBPE, ICC CFPE
Vice President – Codes and Permitting

PDI is pleased to announce that David Emler has been promoted to Vice President – Codes and Permitting. Prior to his promotion, David was Senior Fire Protection & Code Analyst and Permitting Section Manager.



Misty Emler

Misty M. Emler, BSOE
Vice President – Administration

PDI is pleased to announce that Misty Emler has been promoted to Vice President – Administration. Prior to her promotion, Misty was Contracts & Proposals Administrator, Executive Assistant & Office Manager.



Jim Griffith

James R. Griffith, P.E., B.Sc.
Vice President – Engineering

PDI is pleased to announce that Jim Griffith has joined PDI as Vice President – Engineering and Senior Fire Protection Engineer.

As Vice President of Engineering and Senior Fire Protection Engineer, Jim will lead PDI to meet the needs of our clients, including the conceptual development and design of fire protection systems, regulatory code review, life-safety analysis, thermal analysis and modeling of fire dynamics, design and analysis of smoke control systems, and commissioning of fire protection systems. Jim also brings extensive experience in conducting large-scale fire testing programs for the rail / transit, construction, offshore, petrochemical and nuclear industries, as well as various government agencies.

Immediately prior to joining PDI, Jim worked with the City of San Antonio's Development Services Department (2013 – 2017). During this period he established and managed the Special Projects Review Team and was responsible for coordinating expedited plan review by all trades. Later, he managed the Fire Plans Review Team, working closely with the San Antonio Fire Department for compliance review of fire protection systems permits and approval of alternative methods of protection proposed through the Code Modification Request (CMR) process.

From 2008 to 2013, Mr. Griffith served as Senior Fire Protection Engineer and Manager for the Center Institutional Safety Services (CISS) contract at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Johnson Space Center (JSC). Major areas of responsibilities included safety, fire protection, training, maintenance of fire protection systems, test safety, safety information systems, and special projects at JSC, the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (Sonny Carter Training Facility) and Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base.

Prior to 2008, Mr. Griffith worked with Southwest Research Institute's Mechanical Engineering Division and the Department of Fire Technology where he was responsible for large-scale testing programs and research for the transportation (especially rail and transit), construction and nuclear industries, as well as various government agencies.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
The University of Texas at San Antonio – 1987

Licenses/Certifications

Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.)
Mechanical Engineering Branch Specialty – 1993
Fire Protection Engineering Branch Specialty – 1995
Texas Board of Professional Engineers
State of Texas (No. 77757)



Kathy Bentley

Kathleen B. Bentley, P.E., M.Eng.
Senior Fire Protection Engineer

PDI is pleased to announce that Kathy Bentley has joined PDI as a Senior Fire Protection Engineer.

As Senior Fire Protection Engineer, Kathy is responsible for evaluating fire and life-safety design and construction challenges, and then accurately identifying, interpreting and applying the relative codes, standards, and best practices in order to identify best solutions for compliance and cost-effectiveness. Collaborating with PDI clients, she will develop client proposals and bids, assuring a good understanding of the project scope-of-work, timeline, and deliverables. As a senior engineering resource, Kathy will perform life-safety analyses and develop life-safety plans, and also provide comprehensive design, review, and construction administration services related to fire suppression, fire detection, fire alarm, and emergency notification systems.

Ms. Bentley brings significant experience to PDI, having performed engineering design, engineering review, and construction administration services for over 40 years. Kathy is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Texas and Kentucky, qualified in both fire protection engineering and mechanical engineering branch specialties.

Immediately prior to joining PDI, Kathy was based in San Antonio conducting fire protection engineering design reviews for U.S. Department of Defense projects. Those projects included water distribution system hydraulic analysis, fire pumps, clean agent suppression systems, aircraft hangar foam suppression systems, wet pipe, pre-action, deluge and dry pipe sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, emergency notification systems and life-safety design using ICC and NFPA codes.

From 2009 to 2013, Ms. Bentley provided fire protection engineering design and review services for Mason & Hanger, an architectural / engineering design firm located in Lexington, Kentucky. While there, Kathy applied her skill to provide for the fire safe design of office buildings, assembly-type facilities, warehouse and storage buildings, vehicle maintenance facilities, dormitories, fire pump buildings, and fire water storage and distribution facilities. She also provided design and review services for electronic equipment spaces requiring clean agent protection, and provided design and review services for explosives and munitions facilities.

Kathy's initial engineering experience includes providing facilities engineering design and construction services for IBM Corporation from 1977 to 1991 when the company's printer division was sold in a leveraged buyout and became Lexmark International, Inc. Ms. Bentley continued working as a facilities engineer with Lexmark until 2009 when she embarked on her new career in fire protection engineering at Mason & Hanger.

Education

Master of Engineering – Fire Protection Engineering
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland – 2012

Graduate Certificate – Fire Protection Engineering
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland – 2011

Bachelor of Science – Mechanical Engineering
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky – 1976

Licenses / Certifications

Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.)
Mechanical Branch Specialty – 1982
Fire Protection Engineering Branch Specialty – 2012
Kentucky Board of Engineers & Land Surveyors
State of Kentucky (No. 13006)

Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.)
Mechanical Branch Specialty – 2012
Fire Protection Engineering Branch Specialty – 2012
Texas Board of Professional Engineers
State of Texas (No. 124448)

About Protection Development, Incorporated (PDI)



Founded in 1985 as a fire protection engineering firm, PDI provides a full spectrum of fire protection engineering services including sprinkler and fire alarm design, fire and smoke modeling, and performance-based designs offering innovative solutions to complex fire and life-safety challenges. In addition, PDI provides consulting services for fire, building, and life-safety code compliance, including plans review and the issuance of commodity letters. PDI also provides government third-party plan review services on behalf of local, state, and federal agencies. In addition to its engineering and consulting services, PDI, through its Permitting Section, assists its clients in negotiating the complex permitting process, managing that process from initial application, through all necessary inspections, to final Certificate-of-Occupancy.

To learn more about PDI, visit our website at www.pdifire.com.

About PDI Rail Solutions



In June 2009, PDI expanded its commitment to the rail / transit consulting business by launching a new, dedicated division, aimed specifically at that industry. That division is called PDI Rail Solutions.

To learn more about PDI Rail Solutions, visit our website at www.pdirail.com.

PDI is a Texas Registered Engineering Firm (Firm Number F-2816), licensed under the authority of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE).