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The ancient Greeks believed that fire was one the four basic elements that composed all things in the universe. What we do know is that when fire is not detected and suppressed in its early stages, the damage and devastation it can cause is incalculable, especially when loss of life is a result.

Fire follows four stages:

- ignition
- growth
- fully developed
- and decay (burnout)

In order to ensure that a fire does not progress beyond the first stage, adequate detection and suppression technology needs to be in place.

One of the burning questions companies need to ask, given the trend towards integration, is whether today's fire safety solutions are based on open standards that will allow them to be managed from a central management platform.

Examples here could include the integration of fire detection systems with an overall Building Management System (BMS) that has the ability to cross-pollinate data from HVAC, security, fire and other complementary systems.

Most fire systems can be interfaced with a Building Management System (BMS). Recommendations on system compatibility can be garnered from both the designer and the installer.