

## Timber! Sprucing up the industrial process with Axis.

Hampton Affiliates branches out operational and safety efforts at lumber mills with network video.



**Organization:**

Hampton Affiliates

**Location:**

Portland, Oregon, USA

**Industry segment:**

Industrial

**Application:**

Remote monitoring,  
operational processes

**Mission**

Operating expansive lumber mills across the Pacific Northwest, Hampton Affiliates controls a group of industrial sites that play host to massive pieces of machinery that provide countless risks to staff. With the company's focus on the creation of forest products, management has a need to identify safety hazards before anybody becomes in danger.

**Solution**

Operators have found a common solution using a mix of Axis fixed and PTZ network cameras running on AXIS Camera Station to keep watch over their expansive facilities. Sticking to just two models of cameras across the over 800 deployed throughout their sites, setups are easily duplicated for countless people to manage and access.

**Result**

Hampton Affiliates has seen countless scenarios play out in which the video recordings provide high quality answers to operational and safety questions. Engineers are able to proactively address mechanical concerns across the mills and depend on the cameras daily for assistance. The entire process has become extremely simple and streamlined, allowing resources to be reallocated in a more productive manner.

**“The whole process of bringing everything on board is extremely simple and streamlined. Your engineering team came through and did a phenomenal job paying close attention to our needs and making sure that they understood the seriousness of this operation.”**

**Network Engineer, Hampton Affiliates.**

### Stemming across the Pacific Northwest

Hampton Affiliates has grown to be one of the largest manufacturers of forest products across North America, operating nine lumber mills spread through Oregon, Washington and Canada. With a focus on natural renewable resources, these mills primarily produce stud lumber, common pre-cut wood pieces used in construction and other projects.

Each mill spans across multiple hundreds of acres in secluded parts of towns and remote from urban areas. While close to 100 individuals appear at each mill on a daily basis, the modern setups take only about 10 people to run from an operational standpoint. Therefore, many spaces within the property go without 24-hour attention and thus require remote monitoring in case of issues. Massive pieces of machinery and equipment come with certain risks, and it is top priority for operators to maintain a safe workspace for their staff.

### Rooted in an Axis solution

A need for cameras in the facilities arose years ago when operators wanted the ability to identify safety hazards and mechanical concerns even in places without a staff member at any given time. An analog system previously in place provided intermittent real-time views but came with very limited recording capabilities.

“It was a very manual intensive process,” said one network engineer with Hampton Affiliates. “It required bodies to physically be there and see what was going on, so we tied up a lot of resources.”

Hampton Affiliates turned their focus to on an IP video system using Axis network cameras. AXIS M1014 Network Cameras have become standard across each facility, providing an effective option to operators who quickly become familiar with each camera’s features. Certain spots, requiring more flexibility on recording views, deploy AXIS P55 PTZ Dome Network Cameras for those pan/tilt/zoom capabilities.

Operators at each site pull these streams together on AXIS Camera Station, running on their own individual servers and storing roughly seven days of footage from a majority of the cameras. Additionally, multiple mills have leveraged the AXIS Camera Station software on iPads, streaming camera views and previous recordings with the help of a 4G cellular connection.

“The software is coming alive for us,” the engineer explained. “We keep seeing features that are very helpful to us; it is huge for us to be able to watch cameras in a synchronized time state, and having pre-set views ready to go has been a giant time saver.”

### Eyeing over the forest

When a saw blew up in a remote space and recording data showed operators multiple camera angles of exactly what happened, the system already proved to be paying dividends.

“It’s always humbling to see things occur, but we are able to use the footage to troubleshoot as happens nearly every day at all of the mills,” the engineer remarked. “The engineers absolutely depend on this system to work and to work well.”

Every day provides new and unique circumstances to each mill, and engineers rely on camera recordings to troubleshoot equipment failures. If a person is away from a station at any point, footage can provide insight directly into mechanical problems. In turn, issues are addressed much quicker and more efficiently on a frequent basis.

While the network video system was injected to promote safety awareness and operational proficiency, Hampton Affiliates has seen a potential need for security of their mills as well. One site has already shown interest in an outdoor camera for surveillance purposes. Beyond that, the goal is to eventually mainstream the system completely onto the network. “We want to continue to upgrade our cameras and standardize on [Axis],” the engineer concluded.

