


Certification *Profile*



Donald Puck, CPP, began his career as a firefighter with the Des Moines (Iowa) Fire Department (DMFD) in 1967. During his 28-year career, he also served as a communications specialist and a fire inspector. “My background in the DMFD—

doing inspections, code enforcement, and getting EMT certification—prepared me for the job that I have today,” he says.

Puck is the manager of corporate security and physical security/access for the Principal Financial Group, where he has worked since 1995. Puck’s job is to oversee all physical security, access control, fire and life safety systems, and parking. The home office in Des Moines consists of eight buildings, five parking ramps, and several off-site locations.

Three employees report to Puck; he reports to Principal’s assistant director of security. “My staff and I are on call 24/7,” Puck says. “With 7,500 employees in Des Moines and more than 15,000 worldwide, we deal with a lot of access questions.”

“Weather-related issues are also a daily concern,” he adds, “especially in our area, where we could have severe winter weather, tornadoes in the spring, and whenever we have heavy rains, there is the threat of flooding.”

Puck is the person called when employees get trapped in revolving doors and elevators. But his crew also responds to more serious crises. “Not too long ago, we did

CPR on an employee for several minutes before the fire department arrived and took over,” he says. “We used our automated external defibrillator (AED), which we had recently acquired, on the individual.” Puck is proud to report that the employee made it to the hospital, fully recovered, and was back at work within a month.

He adds that all of Principal’s staff and contractors are required to be CPR/AED and first-aid certified.

One of Puck’s favorite things about his job is that no two days are alike. “Yes, you have similar issues on a daily basis,” he says, “but there is always something different each day. One thing to remember is that you’re not going to become a millionaire in our profession, but it can be rewarding. Especially when you know you are helping others.”

An ASIS International member for 12 years, Puck has been active in the Central Iowa Chapter, serving three terms as treasurer and one term each as vice chair and chair. He has also been a member of the ASIS Fire and Life Safety Council, where he has served as vice chair and chair. Puck earned his CPP in 2003.

“Having a CPP was not part of the job requirement when I first started here,” he says. “Now it is highly recommended. I found that the many hours of studying for it gave me a well-rounded package of information that has proven beneficial in discussing security issues with others in and outside the security field.”

—By *Vicki Moeser*, ASIS public relations manager