

# Vanguard Professionals

Nationwide, over 100 professional Vanguard staff members are focused on serving customers and all their fire and security needs. Led by a solid Management Team, Vanguard is structured into three core workgroups focused on satisfying customer requirements. While key staff are highlighted here, please note that the entire Vanguard Team makes valuable contributions to our customers on a daily basis.

## ▼ EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

### **Darrell Thomas** **President**

Darrell owns Vanguard Fire & Security Systems, Inc. and has been with the company for over 40 years. Darrell leads the strategic planning of Vanguard.

### **Rick Knipp** **General Manager**

Rick directs the daily operations of Vanguard Fire & Security Systems, Inc. and is a 30-year veteran of the company. Rick supervises the Sales & Service Operations of the Petroleum Workgroup.

### **Tim Callahan** **Operations**

With 14 years experience in Finance Operations, Tim supervises the Operations Workgroup of Vanguard Fire & Security Systems - including all Branch Operations, Human Resources, Installation Project Managers, Engineering, and Accounting.

### **Tate Thomas** **Purchasing**

Tate directs all vendor relationships for Vanguard products and services. With 13 years experience, Tate manages product ordering, inventory, shop and warehouse operations.

Nationwide Headquarters 800-444-8719

### **Bret Thomas** **Special Projects**

With 22 years experience, Bret assists with supervision of Vanguard Installation Project Managers, as well as reviewing Special Projects and unique Sprinkler opportunities for existing or prospective Vanguard customers.

## ▼ KEY PROFESSIONALS

**Eric Barnum, SET – Engineering/Project Manager • 12 yrs.**  
 Manages Design Dept. and Coordinates Specialty Projects.

**Matt Batchelor – Installation Project Manager • 14 yrs.**  
 Coordinates all Vanguard Sprinkler Projects.

**Jason Czech – Branch Manager – Wixom • 16 yrs.**  
 Directs all Vanguard operations within the Wixom Branch.

**Micah Dickinson – Special Hazards Sales • 11 yrs.**  
 Provides consultation on Special Hazard Fire Suppression Systems.

**Paul Florshinger – Installation Project Manager**  
 Coordinates all Vanguard Petroleum Projects.

**Ted Hembroff – Petroleum Service Manager • 31 yrs.**  
 Manages Petroleum Service Activities.

**Marc Heuser – Engineer • 10 yrs.**  
 Provides consultation, design, and pricing for Sprinkler Systems.

**Kurt Hofstra – Branch Manager – Grand Rapids • 7 yrs.**  
 Directs all Vanguard operations within the Grand Rapids Branch.

**John Hopkins – Assistant Petroleum Service Manager • 17 yrs.**  
 Assists in Supervising Petroleum Services.

**Toni Lentner – Branch Manager – Kalamazoo • 15 yrs**  
 Directs all Vanguard operations within the Kalamazoo Branch.

**Nick Lesinski – Engineer • 8 yrs.**  
 Designs Special Hazard Systems and Custom Systems.

**Mark Matheis – Installation Project Manager • 31 yrs.**  
 Coordinates all Vanguard Electronics Projects.

**Scott Newhall – Branch Manager - Saginaw • 18 yrs.**  
 Directs all Vanguard operations within the Saginaw Branch.

**Brian Organek – Oil, Gas, and Chemical Industry Sales • 19 yrs.**  
 Provides consultation on Oil, Gas and Chemical Industry protection.

**John Pulaski – Account Representative • 20 yrs.**  
 Assists existing customers with deficiency corrections.

**Stacie Smith – Engineer • 8 yrs.**  
 Designs Kitchen Suppression & Fire Alarm Systems.

**Craig Zimmerman – Account Representative • 16 yrs.**  
 Provides consultation on Pre-Engineered Systems & Fire Training.