

Firetrace Application Briefs

AB004

Ski Lifts

A distributor in the Southwest is proposing Firetrace to protect the control boards on chairlifts at a major ski resort. The control boards are currently contained in NEMA rated enclosures. The enclosures would be protected with a Direct Low-Pressure system using 12 lbs. of FM-200®. There are over 100 of these enclosures on the mountain, and the performance and low cost of Firetrace make it an inexpensive insurance policy.

Power Company's Electrical Control Cabinets

An electric utility in the Northwest is looking to protect 120vac control cabinets with a Firetrace Direct Low-Pressure system using 12 lbs. of FM-200 would be utilized to obtain a long lasting discharge. The tubing would be placed immediately next to the base of the open-faced relays that are the hazard. The relays have a tendency to arc across the contact points causing a plasma-based fire. The tubing would quickly detect and suppress the fire, minimizing collateral damage. A pressure switch will be utilized to de-energize the relays.

Large Detection Project

A distributor in the Midwest has gained a large contract by using Firetrace tubing for linear, pneumatic fire detection. The tubing will be routed through the interior of numerous control cabinets and robotic machines in a large car production facility. The system will use at least 330 ft. of Firetrace tubing, connected to a 3 lb. Indirect Low-Pressure cylinder containing only dry nitrogen. Multiple pressure switches will provide trouble and supervisory alerts as well as the alarm contacts to the alarm panel. The use of the pneumatic Firetrace system saved on installation costs and outperforms the other options that had been reviewed to perform the detection.

Ink Injection Machines

A pen manufacturer is considering Firetrace systems to protect the machines that inject ink into pens. The ink is flammable making the machine that injects it a fire hazard. There is currently no fire protection on the machine itself. The underbody of the machine is full of electrical and pneumatic equipment. The upper assembly of the machine (not contained) will be protected with a 12 lb. Indirect Low-Pressure system to provide a complete flooding of the area. The lower machine assembly (contained) will use a 6 lb. Direct Low-Pressure system. The agent will be FM-200 and pressure switches and manual releases are proposed.

Telephone Switch Boxes

A phone company in the Northwest is considering Firetrace to protect remote switch boxes. The components contained in each box are valued at over \$150,000. The non-heated cabinets are prone to fire from the electronics held within. A Direct Low-Pressure system would be a true "local application, total flooding" system due to the low volume of the boxes. Firetrace is perfect because of the limited amount of AC power within the switchgear.



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Landfill Trash Compacting Machines

Firetrace is being considered to suppress flash fires that occasionally occur in the trucks of a national waste removal company in the Midwest. The potential for fire exists in compactors of these trucks due to flammable items that can be ignited by the heat and friction during the compaction process. With strategic installation, an Indirect Low-Pressure system with 12 lbs. of FM-200 will be able to detect and suppress these fires and minimize damage to the compaction equipment.

Computer Cabinets and Racks

A distributor in the Southwest is working with an industrial computer cabinet and rack manufacturer to offer fire protection for their products. The cabinets are shipped around the world and house computer servers, power supplies and fan units. The cabinets have many vents, removable front and rear doors and is usually open to the sub floor. It has been determined that a large Direct Low Pressure System using 12 lbs. of FM-200 is the best solution to protect the cabinets from fire. This allows for the removal of the doors, high ventilation and any openings (not currently identified) created by the end user. The system will ship with a pressure switch for fan shutdown, power lockout and local building alarm tie in.

Electronic and Computer Cabinets

A distributor in the South has proposed Firetrace to a U.S. government facility. The facility is considering protecting several electronic and computer cabinets with Direct Low-Pressure systems using 12 lbs. of FM-200. As the size of computers has continued to decrease, the customer no longer has a need for the halon total flood system, and Firetrace can protect the equipment itself and allow the room to be covered by the sprinkler system.

Automated File Systems

A distributor in the Northeast has proposed Firetrace Direct Low Pressure systems using 3 lbs. of FM-200 to protect the electronic components of automated paper file handling machines. The end user purchasing these machines is looking for the benefits associated with more efficient paper handling but is concerned with loss of information if the motor or electronic unit of the automated machine starts a fire. Firetrace provides the ideal solution as it provides protection from potential sources of fire inside the cabinet of this unit.

Remote Kiosk Protection

A distributor in the Midwest has proposed Firetrace to protect a small, remote kiosk. The kiosk is a stand-alone room that is being designed as a small guard station. Firetrace was being considered because it was cost prohibitive to extend existing water lines to add sprinklers to the small room. An Indirect Low-Pressure system, with a manual release, filled with 6 lbs. of FM-200 provided the perfect stand-alone fire suppression system.



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Delivery Vehicle

A distributor in the Northeast has installed a Firetrace Indirect Low-Pressure system using 6 lbs. of FM-200 to protect the engine compartment of a delivery van used in fulfilling a government delivery contract. This contract required on-board fire suppression for all delivery vehicles, and Firetrace was chosen as the most effective option. The system's cylinder is mounted vertically on a wire cage just behind the driver's area. A manual release was also installed in the cab along with a pressure gauge so the driver knows that the system is active at all times. Firetrace copper piping and detection tubing runs under the van floorboard and into the engine compartment. The detection tubing is strategically located around the engine compartment to allow for effective detection and not interfere with engine service requirements. Two nozzles are mounted at the front of the van to discharge back and down into the engine area based on airflow considerations.

Injection Molding Machines

A major manufacturing plant in the Southeast is considering Firetrace for their injection molding machines. They recently had a fire in one of these machines that resulted in significant damage. It appears that waste residue from the plastic that is used to make their product can sometimes catch fire if it is not cleaned out of the machine. This presented an excellent application for an Indirect Low-Pressure system using 12 lbs. of FM-200, a pressure switch, a manual release and four discharge nozzles.

Off-site Medical Records Storage

A distributor in the Northeast has installed three Direct Low Pressure systems using 3lbs. of FM-200 to protect the interiors of medical records cabinets recently moved to a warehouse location due to space considerations. The end user has a requirement to preserve these records, and local building codes required fire protection for the new storage location. The user selected in-cabinet fire protection from Firetrace as a cost-effective option as compared to protecting the entire warehouse. Fire protection is provided inside cabinets through the Firetrace detection/discharge tubing; effectively protecting the contents. The pressure switches are linked together to connect the Firetrace systems to the warehouse alarm system for monitoring.

We welcome your submissions on where you are proposing Firetrace as well as where you have already supplied Firetrace. We will make sure the report is published in a "generic" fashion. Just fill us in on the details such as why the customer is looking at or why they chose Firetrace, and we'll take care of the rest! Submit your application details to: gray@firetrace.com

