Firetrace® Application Briefs

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Paper Mill Processing Control Panels

A distributor in the Southeast sold 16 Firetrace systems to a paper mill. The mill has four levels and each contains two process control panels. The 16 Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) systems were each filled with 12 lbs. of FM-200® and installed to protect each cabinet (two systems per cabinet due to volume). Multiple Pressure Switches were incorporated to activate local alarms and stop the production process while Manual Releases were installed on each level. Since the equipment being protected was of such value (i.e. maintaining product output and preventing downtime), the customer requested that all systems be interconnected to activate simultaneously and "flood" all control panels with FM-200 upon any fire detection. Several hundred feet of Firetrace Detection Tubing were used within the network of the 16 systems.

Exhaust Stack

Firetrace has been proposed to protect the exhaust stack/system of a plywood manufacturer. Recently, this exhaust system that carries the adhesive vapors and small fragments of sawdust away from the moving process line experienced a serious fire resulting in a three-day shutdown. The plant safety director was unable to come up with a fire protection system that was both effective ***and*** cost-effective. Three, interconnected Firetrace Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) systems filled with 20 lbs. of dry chemical powder each were offered to rapidly fill the entire exhaust system with powder. A Pressure Switch was incorporated to stop both the assembly line and the exhaust fans as well as signal the building's alarm system.

Custom Trailers

A Firetrace International distributor in the Midwest found a company that builds custom trailers for applications such as race car transport and other unique cargo. The NFL is having a trailer built to house special NFL sports memorabilia and plans to take it to each NFL venue during the year. Inside the trailer will be custom made cabinets with helmets, uniforms, etc. from famous players and eras in the NFL. They want the trailer to have fire protection but do not want to pay the "big bucks" for a total flood system, especially since the trailer will be open-ended during viewing. Our distributor quoted them four Direct Low Pressure (DLP) systems each filled with 6 lbs. FM-200 to protect the *insides* of the cabinets within the trailer. With a "T" fitting for the Firetrace Detection Tubing, each DLP can protect two cabinets. Plus, clear Firetrace Detection Tubing was proposed to minimize any visual distractions from the contents of the cabinets.

Die Casting Exhaust Ducts

A Firetrace International distributor in the Northwest called on a die casting company that had several fires in their exhaust ductwork leading from the die cast furnaces to the roof vents. They proposed an Indirect High Pressure (IHP) system using 20 lbs. of CO_2 to protect the ductwork. Firetrace Detection Tubing would be installed along the length of the duct. The CO_2 discharge would be at the transition point in the ductwork, which would allow the total duct to be flooded with CO_2. A Pressure Switch would be used to shut off the exhaust fans and close the dampers.

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Baggage Screening Machines

A Firetrace International distributor in the Northeast has approached a large, international airport to discuss fire protection for their new baggage screening machines. These machines can cost up to $1 million and any screening interruption can cause massive delays to air travelers. Our distributor proposed one Firetrace Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) system filled with 12 lbs. of FM-200 for each machine. The ILP systems used two Cross Pattern Nozzles, a Pressure Switch to turn off power to the machine and a Manual Release.

Secure Computer Server Cabinets

A Firetrace International distributor in Canada has partnered with a manufacturer of computer server cabinets to provide end-users fire protection. Supplied with self-contained air conditioners that cool internal components, these cabinets will be fitted with an Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) system using 12 lbs. of FM-200. Two discharge nozzles, 20 feet of Firetrace Detection Tubing, a Pressure Switch and a Manual Release are included with the system as well. An early warning or pre-action option will also be included which consists of a heat and smoke detector. These devices are configured to turn off the air conditioner upon activation and sound an audible alarm. Depending on the severity of the fire, the Firetrace system will activate right away or people can either use a clean agent portable themselves or depress the Manual Release to discharge the ILP immediately.

Liquid Chemical Cleaning Tank

A distributor is the Southeast has quoted Firetrace to a major wire production company. They use small 3’ x 1’ x 2’ liquid chemical cleaning tanks to clean the wire before it is coated. The tanks contain highly flammable solvents that have caught fire in the past. The distributor has proposed Indirect High Pressure (IHP) Firetrace systems using 10 lbs. of CO_2. The systems will incorporate a Pressure Switch that will activate a local alarm and stop the production lines.

Library Drop Box

A distributor in the Midwest has offered Firetrace to a local library that recently experienced an attempted act of arson in their book drop box attached to their main building. The library realized how a Direct Low Pressure (DLP) system filled with three pounds of dry chemical (for cost reasons) could prevent the building’s sprinkler system from dumping water on all of its books. A Pressure Switch was included as well for alarm panel notification.

Chemical Manufacturing

A chemical manufacturing company has recently experienced a fire in one of its production areas. Acetones are being used in the manufacturing process and are extremely flammable. Two Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) systems were proposed each using 9 liters of AR-AFFF Foam. The two systems would be interconnected to discharge simultaneously. There are a total of four nozzles, 20 feet of Firetrace Detection Tubing and a Pressure Switch to stop the processing and sound an alarm.

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Commuter Train Electrical Cabinets

A mass transit authority on the Atlantic seaboard has expressed interest in Firetrace to provide fire protection for the electrical cabinets on their commuter train engine cars. Obviously, it is critical that mass transportation operates uninterrupted, and a fire in the engine car could be incredibly costly, not to mention its disruption of service to the commuters. Due to the size of these cabinets, a Firetrace Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) system using 12 lbs. of FM-200 per car was proposed. The ILPs two cross-pattern nozzles will be able to quickly fill the open spaces of the cabinet. A Manual Release was included in the system as well.

Production Control Cabinets

Firetrace systems were proposed to a chicken processing plant in the Southeast. This plant has four "mission critical" electrical cabinets that completely control the processing line. It was found that these rooms could not be reconfigured to be a total flood application, so Firetrace looks like an excellent option as their insurance carrier has recommended that they protect these cabinets. Four Direct Low Pressure (DLP) systems filled with FM-200 were quoted, two 6 lbs. and two 12 lbs. as the cabinets were located in three different rooms. The flexibility of the Firetrace Detection Tubing used as a delivery system will allow fire detection and suppression directly at the source. Pressure Switches were included to be tied into the building's alarm panel.

Cement Factory Electrical Cabinets

A Firetrace International distributor in the Midwest found a perfect Firetrace application in a cement factory. There are six process control electrical cabinets that handle all of the automated systems in the plant. These cabinets were approximately 60 cubic feet each. One Direct Low Pressure (DLP) system filled with 6 lbs. of FM-200 was proposed to protect two side-by-side cabinets using a "T" in the Firetrace Detection Tubing. All of the DLP systems will use a Pressure Switch to turn off power to the affected cabinets and signal the building's fire alarm. During the visit, our distributor found several additional Firetrace applications for other electrical equipment including a backup generator.

Equipment Shed

A Firetrace International distributor in the Northwest has quoted several Firetrace systems to provide fire protection to an equipment shed at a local power company. The shed is 8' x 4' x 5' (160 cu. ft.) and houses a small computer and a rack of pollution monitoring equipment estimated at $30,000. Plus, this equipment has a replacement lead time of 8-weeks. As a full-room flood system using FM-200 was cost-prohibitive, an Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) system with 12 lbs. of FM-200 was proposed to protect the shed. A Pressure Switch was included to provide remote notification of a system discharge.

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Parade Float Generator Compartments

A Firetrace International distributor has proposed a Firetrace Direct Low Pressure (DLP) system using FM-200 to protect the power generator enclosures for several elaborate parade floats. These generators are mounted underneath each float and power the various lights and moving parts on the float. The price tags for these floats are quite extreme, but the company is most concerned about safeguarding the floats' riders. A Pressure Switch that would notify an Audible Alarm located in the driver's cab was also included in each DLP system.

Communications Cabinet

A Firetrace International distributor has proposed fire protection for a communications cabinet and adjoining cable trays using a Direct Low Pressure (DLP) system. The system will use 12 lbs. of FM–200 and include a Pressure Switch to turn off the power and stop the cooling fan. Firetrace Detection Tubing will be split with a "T" to use the one system to protect both the tray and the cabinet.

Portable Generator

A power company in the Midwest has requested a proposal for a Firetrace system to be used on portable generators used when there are spikes in power demand. They recently experienced a fire in a backup generator that caused 200+ homes to go without power for several hours. Our distributor quoted an Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) system using 12 lbs. of FM-200 for each generator. The ILP system includes 40 feet of Firetrace Detection Tubing, two discharge nozzles and a Pressure Switch used to trip a relay to send a remote signal to a monitoring facility.

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.

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