

# IN ACTION

## Firetrace System Suppresses Swiss-Type Turning Center Fire



The Citizen M220 Swiss Type Turning Center\*

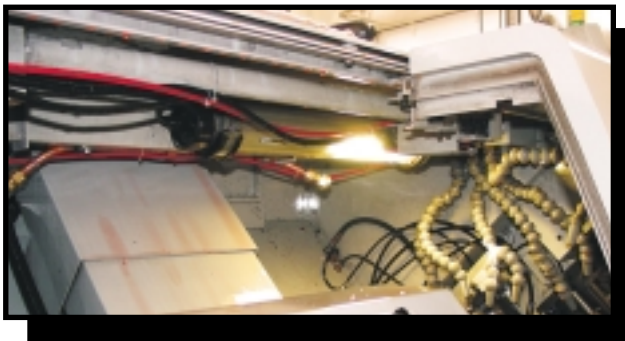
Although Swiss-type turning centers are designed to be very safe and prevent the conditions necessary to create a fire, they are operated by humans who can occasionally mis-operate the machine. A Midwest machine tool manufacturer had four Firetrace systems installed to protect a few of their significant investments in Citizen M220\* Turning Centers from fire damage (see images on the left). Individual machines can cost \$200,000 or more, so they had Firetrace UL Listed Indirect Low Pressure (ILP) systems installed on them. The Firetrace ILP systems used 12 pounds of FM-200® as the fire suppressing agent. FM-200 was chosen because of its effective fire fighting ability (much smaller and lighter cylinder than CO<sub>2</sub>) and inherent characteristic of leaving no residue after discharge.



Firetrace Indirect Low Pressure System Installed Directly On The Machine

A situation recently arose where excessive heat was generated from improper operation, and the elevated heat eventually caused the cooling oil to ignite. The initial “flash” fire cause all of the cooling oil to ignite creating a substantial fire in an instant. Within seconds, the Firetrace Detection Tubing routed on the top of the machine’s cutting area detected the fire and activated the Firetrace system. The FM-200 instantly flowed from the discharge nozzles, filled the machine’s enclosed working area and quickly suppressed the fire (see images below).

Fortunately, the fire occurred inside one of the four machines on which the customer had installed a Firetrace system. After the Firetrace system worked exactly as designed, the customer, realizing the value not only of the machine itself but the revenue that its output generates, quickly decided to have the same Firetrace ILP systems installed on all of its remaining 24 machines.



Red Firetrace Detection Tubing Routed Throughout The Machine, Cooper Discharge Piping And Silver Discharge Nozzles At The Top

**FIRETRACE®**

AUTOMATIC FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS