

SAND2012-1755C
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Security Considerations with Industrial Fire Protection

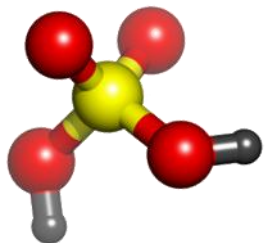
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Primary Course Objectives

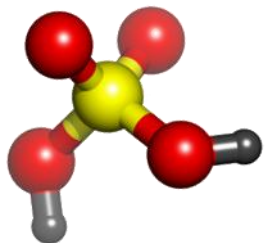
- ▶ Provide a broad overview of industrial fire protection
- ▶ Apply engineering principles to generic industrial fire protection issues
- ▶ Discuss historical examples of industrial fire protection hazards
- ▶ Develop security related scenarios which may be compromised by fire, explosion, or inadvertent chemical release





Key Terms

- ▶ Siting – fix or build something in a particular place
- ▶ Egress – pathways for entering and exiting
- ▶ Suppression – extinguishing or containing of fire
- ▶ Extinguishability – ability to completely disrupt fire process
- ▶ Compartmentation – ability to isolate particular areas from other area



Course Structure

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Perspectives and statistical overview
- ▶ Facility/Plant siting and location
- ▶ Construction considerations
 - Fire resistant construction
 - Smoke control
 - Fire suppression systems
- ▶ Storage of flammable liquids
- ▶ Ignition Sources
- ▶ Security considerations and scenarios



<http://www.draegerdive.com>



Introduction to Industrial Fire Protection

For common workplace conditions, fire safety may be achieved by simple methods

- Enforcement of approved fire codes and standards
 - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp>
 - International Building Codes (IBC)
 - <http://www.iccsafe.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- Local or national fire officials and chiefs



National Fire Protection Association
The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety





Introduction to Industrial Fire Protection

- ▶ Industrial facilities have unique hazards
 - Chemical production or use
 - Storage of flammable or volatile materials
 - Access controls or personnel restrictions
- ▶ Unique operations require additional considerations included with simpler methods



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[news.thomasnet.com](https://www.news.thomasnet.com)



[kellerfencenorth.com](https://www.kellerfencenorth.com)



www.archiexpo.com



Introduction to Industrial Fire Protection

- ▶ Additional considerations require the use of an engineering approach
- ▶ Steps for an engineering approach include
 - Identification of possible accident scenarios
 - Analysis of consequences resulting in accidents
 - Evaluation of alternative protection methods



Introduction to Industrial Fire Protection

Scenario Identification

- Pre-incident situations (start-up, maintenance, shutdown)
- Ignition source
- Ignited material
- Flaming or smoldering combustion
- Fire spread and heat release rates of ignited material
- Fire spread to secondary combustibles

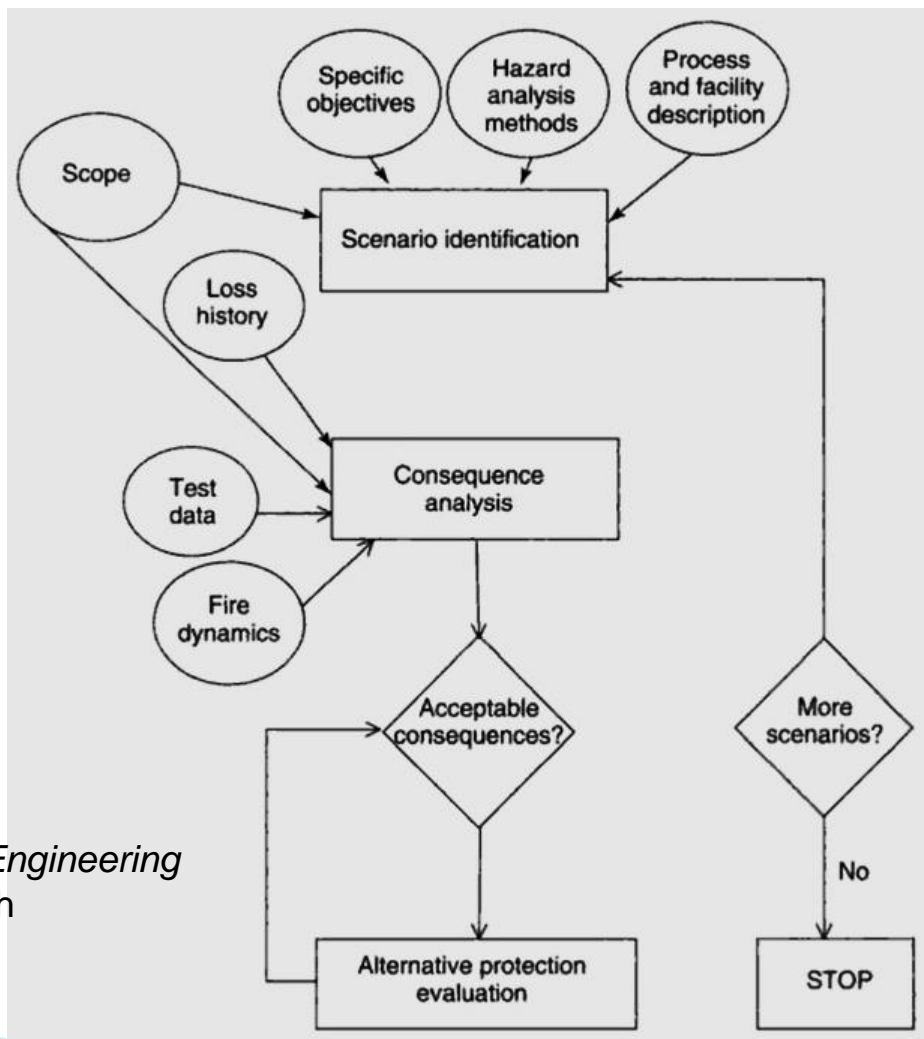


Introduction to Industrial Fire Protection

- ▶ Consequence Analysis
 - Property damage or loss
 - Personnel injury or fatality
 - Interruption of operation continuity
 - Explosion damage (i.e., surrounding community)
- ▶ Evaluation of alternative protection methods
 - Effectiveness (e.g., prevention of life/property loss)
 - Benefits (e.g., financial, continuity of operation, environmental)



Introduction to Industrial Fire Protection



Industrial Fire Protection Engineering
Robert G. Zalosh



Perspectives and Statistical Overview

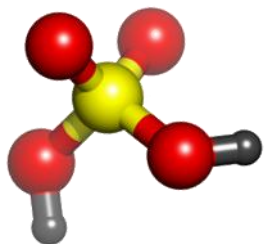
- ▶ Types of facilities involved in large monetary loss fires
 - US industrial fires with >\$30M US property damage
 - European large-loss fires
- ▶ Types of fires and explosions in large industrial losses
- ▶ Industrial fires with most fatalities





Perspectives and Statistical Overview

- ▶ Ignition sources in large loss fires
- ▶ Time of fire initiation
- ▶ Presence of automatic detection and suppressions systems
- ▶ Effectiveness of detection and suppression systems



Perspectives and Statistical Overview

Type of Facility	Number of >\$30M Losses	% of U.S. Large Loss Fires
Warehouses	17	27%
Petroleum Refineries	12	19%
Power Plants	5	8%
Chemical Plants	5	8%
Grain Elevators	3	
Textile Plants	2	
Telephone Exchanges	2	
Ink Manufacturing	2	
Aluminum Plants	2	

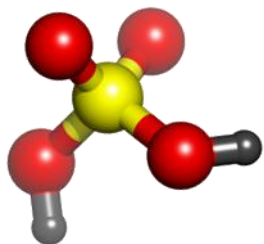
Historic data on US fires prior to 2003



Perspectives and Statistical Overview

Type of Fire/Explosion	% of Incidents	Example
Flammable Liquid	17%	GM Livonia, Sandoz Basel
Plastic Storage	12.5%	Ford Cologne Warehouse
Dust Explosion	9%	Malden Mills
Vapor Cloud Explosion	8%	Phillips Petroleum
Gas Explosion	5%	Ford Rouge Powerhouse
Electrical Cable	5%	Ameritech Hinsdale
Aerosol Products	5%	K Mart
Gas Fires	5%	Gas Turbine Fire, VA

Historic data on US fires prior to 2003



Perspectives and Statistical Overview

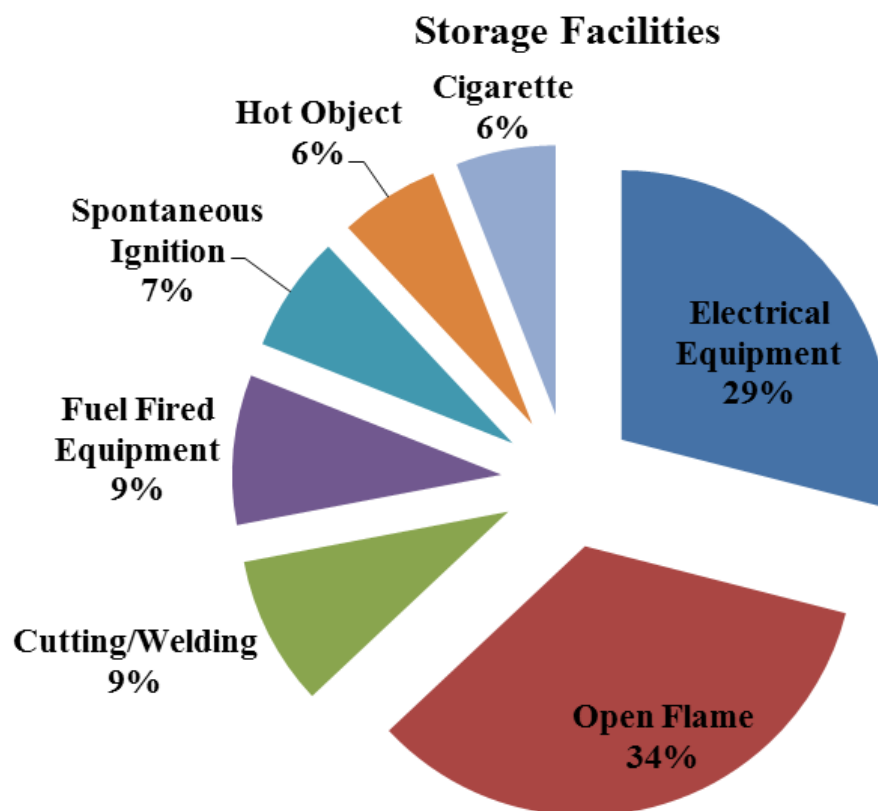
Type of Facility	# of Incidents	# of Fatalities	Example
Petrochemical Plant	10	726 – 967	Pemex, Mexico City
Factories	9	549 – 606	Garment Factory in Bangladesh
Offshore Oil/Gas Platforms	2	203	Piper Alpha, North Sea
Fireworks Facility	5	145	Jennings, Oklahoma USA

- Multiple Fatality (>20)
- Industrial fires and explosions between 1981 - 2000



Perspectives and Statistical Overview

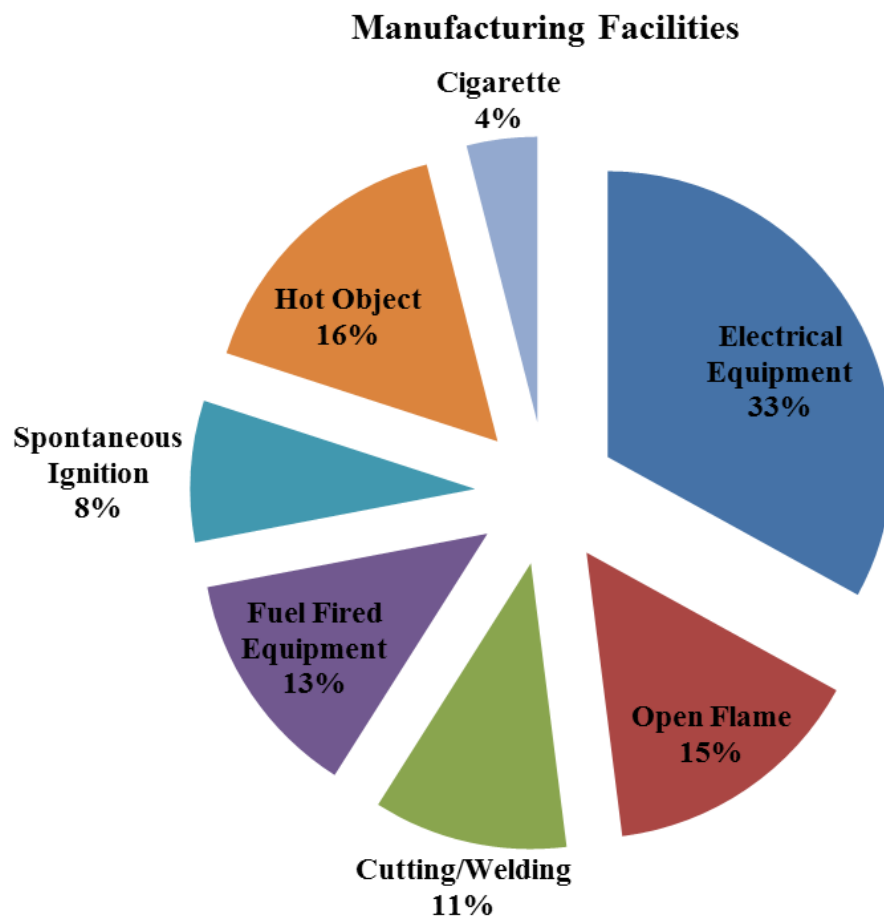
Ignition sources in large loss fires





Perspectives and Statistical Overview

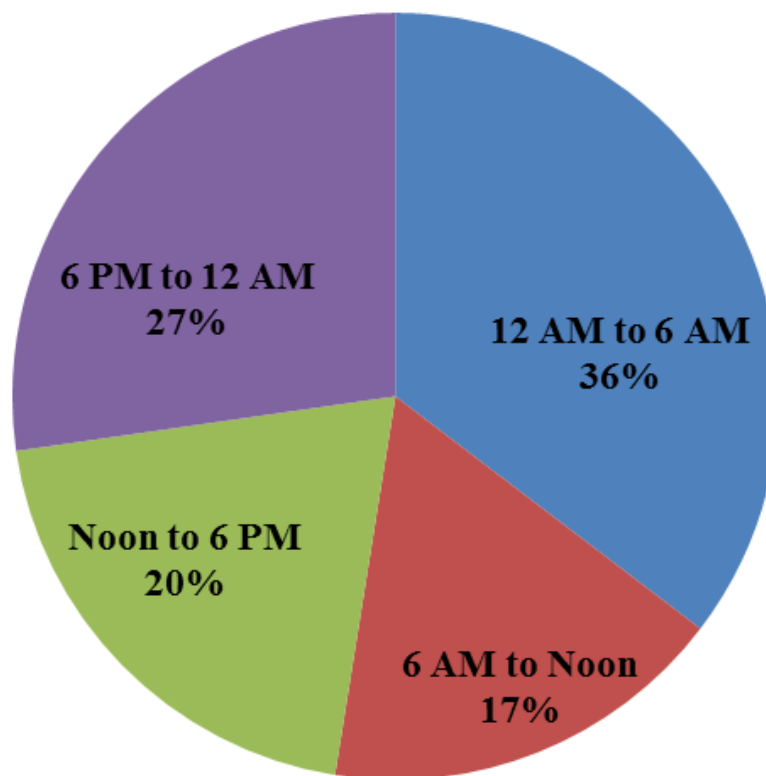
Ignition sources in large loss fires





Perspectives and Statistical Overview

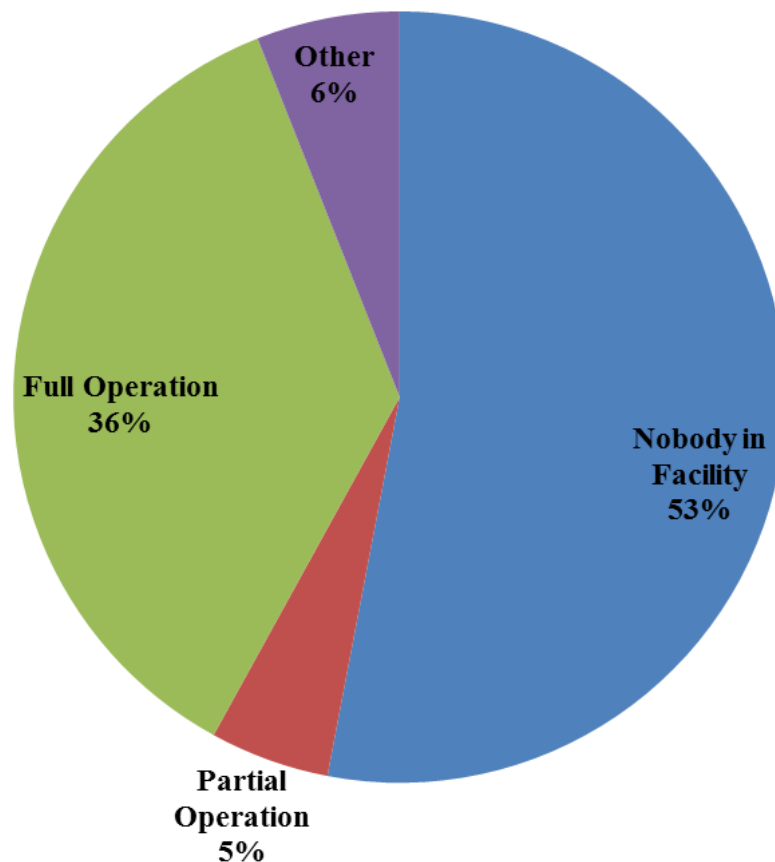
Time Distribution of large loss fires from NFPA data on 338 Fires in 1985

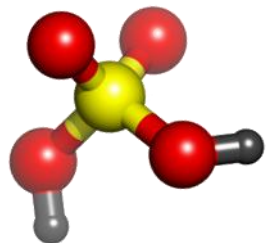




Perspectives and Statistical Overview

Operational status of facilities in large loss fires





Perspectives and Statistical Overview

Automatic Sprinkler System Status	Number of Fires
Not Installed	14
Overpowered by Fire	7
System Shut Off Before Fire	2
Not in Area of Fire Origin	3
Damaged by Explosion	1
Unknown	1
Total	28

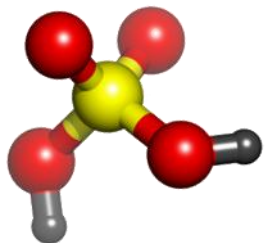
Status of automatic suppression systems in 1987 large loss fires (NFPA Journal, 1988)



Perspectives and Statistical Overview

Automatic Detection System Status	Number of Fires
Not Installed	19
Functioned as Designed	4
Not in Area of Fire Origin	1
Installation Incomplete	1
Unknown	3
Total	28

Status of automatic detection systems in 1987 large loss fires (NFPA Journal, 1988)



Facility Siting and Location

- ▶ Safe separation distances
 - Flame radiation
 - Toxic and/or flammable vapor clouds
 - Blast waves
- ▶ Water supply access and reliability
 - Susceptibility to drought
 - Robust supply of water



Facility Siting and Location

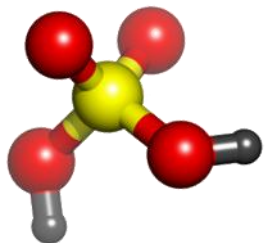
- ▶ Safe egress, rescue, and manual fire fighting
 - Egress to adjacent protected building or designated area
 - Distance from fire department
 - Site accessibility
- ▶ Hazard segregation and isolation
 - Grouping similar hazardous chemicals
 - Isolating and protection special or targeted dual use chemicals
 - Isolation and elimination of ignition sources



Facility Siting and Location

Miscellaneous considerations

- Environmental (e.g., flooding, drought)
- Naturally occurring hazards (e.g., earthquake)
- Water run-off with the possibility of contamination
 - Waterways such as rivers, lakes, ponds
 - Underground aquifer
 - Food supplies



Facility Siting Incident

- ▶ Sandoz Basel Fire, 1986 in Switzerland
- ▶ Textile and agrochemical manufacturing facility
- ▶ Structural steel framed building that was 90m long, 50m wide with two 12m high peaks. 12cm brick wall in the middle to create two separate buildings

<http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng>



http://www.novaquatis.eawag.ch/media/2006/20061101/index_EN



Facility Siting Incident

- ▶ Original use was for machinery storage, converted over to flammable liquids storage
 - Explosion-proof electrical fixtures
 - Sealed sewer drains
 - Installed three water curtains to be operated by plant fire brigade
- ▶ No automatic sprinklers or smoke detectors
- ▶ Chemicals stored in plastic bags, plastic and steel drums
- ▶ Materials stacked to maximum height of 8m



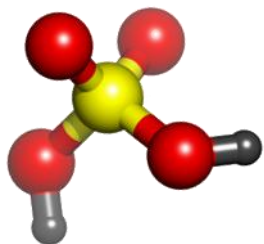
Facility Siting Incident

- ▶ Storage at the time of incident
 - 859 metric tons of organophosphate insecticide
 - 12 metric tons of a phenyl-urea derivative used for weed control
 - 73 metric tons of di-nitrocresol derivative herbicide
 - 26 metric tons of fungicide
 - 11 metric tons of water soluble organic mercury compounds
 - 5.6 metric tons of misc. agrochemicals
 - 364 metric tons of various formulating agents
- ▶ Most have flash points of 30°C and higher



Facility Siting Incident

- ▶ Incident occurred on October 31, 1986
- ▶ Key points to the incident
 - Palletized chemicals were plastic shrink wrapped and then finished by using a blow torch
 - Plastic wrap could ignite if exposed for sufficient duration
 - Chemicals in the warehouse (e.g., Prussian Blue dye) could burn flamelessly, smokelessly, and slowly thus eluding early detection by workers
 - No automatic suppression or smoke detection



Facility Siting Incident

<http://www.rockwool.com>

- ▶ Initial fire responders determined that fire spread was too rapid to control
 - Fire foam was used, but proved to be ineffective
 - Responders directed to cool surrounding buildings
 - Limited success as steel drums were propelled from the building of fire origin to adjacent structures
- ▶ Water was applied at 30 cubic meters per minute
- ▶ Containment basins filled quickly and toxic chemicals flowed into the Rhine River



<http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng>



Facility Siting Incident

▶ Extensive environmental impacts

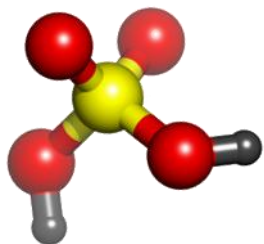
- Most fish were killed by mercury poisoning in a 250km section of the Rhine downstream of Basel
- Subsoil water levels had to be pumped away to preserve the municipal underground water supply
- Wind carried the smoke produced by the fire over residential communities causing eye and respiratory issues

▶ Extensive financial impacts

- \$60M US in settle charges
- Figure does NOT include environmental clean-up and restoration efforts

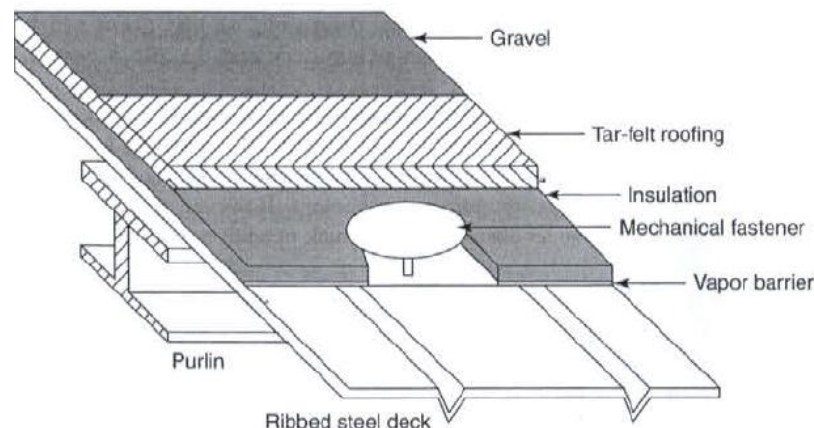
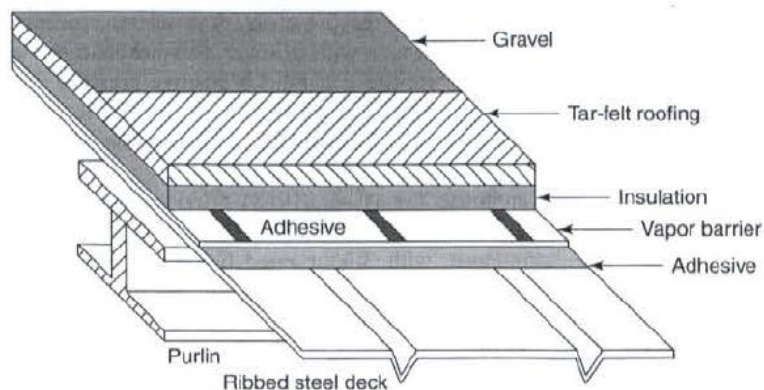


http://www.novaquatis.eawag.ch/media/2006/20061101/index_EN

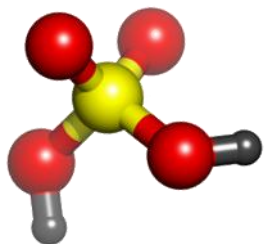


Construction Considerations

- ▶ Fire resistant construction
 - Fire walls – hour rating
 - Fire doors – prevents smoke from passing under
 - Roofing – connecting areas, fastened to fire walls
- ▶ Smoke control
 - Isolation
 - Ventilation
- ▶ Fire suppression systems
 - Not only water but could include foams, dry chemical, carbon dioxide, halon, etc.

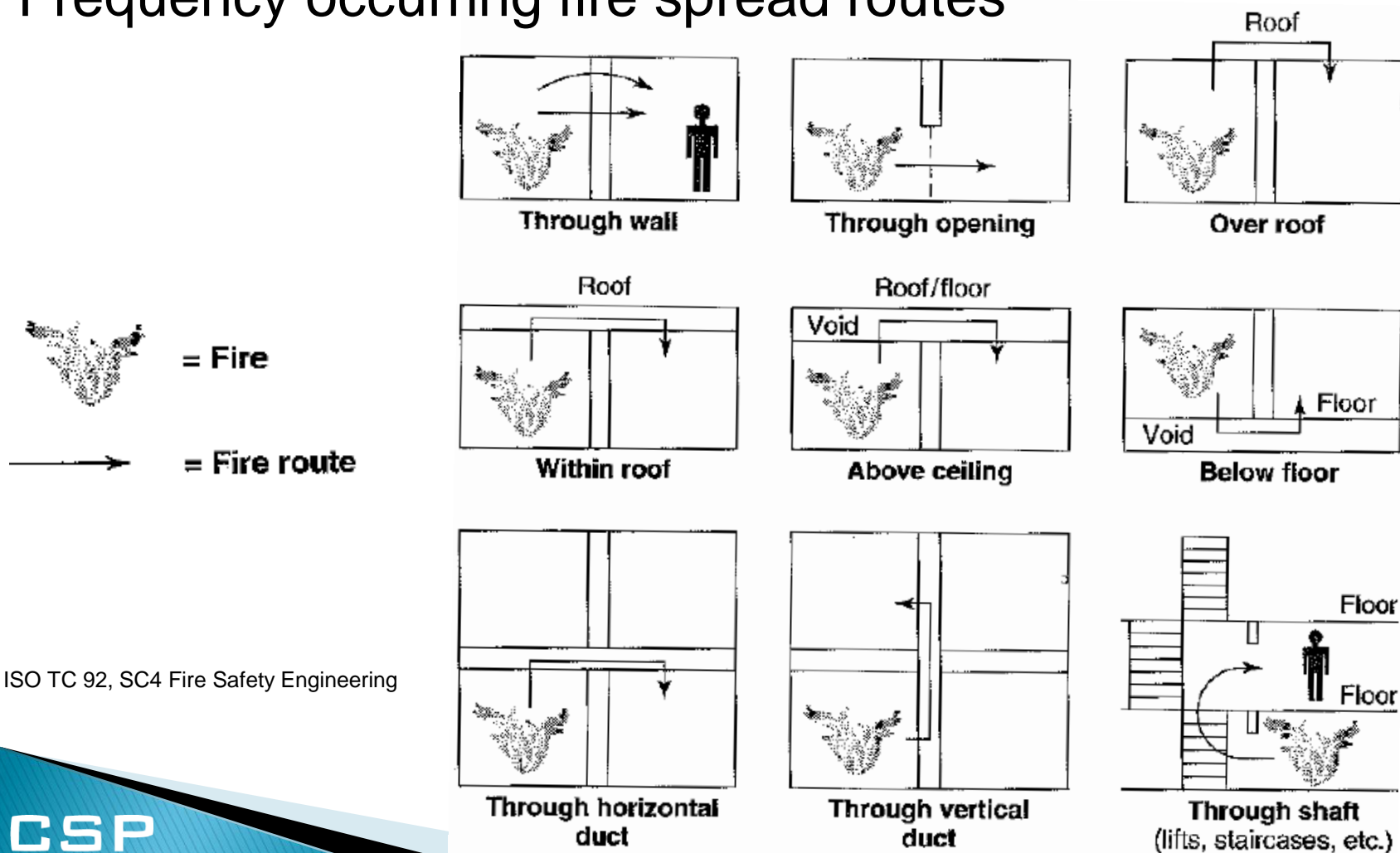


Industrial Fire Protection Engineering
Robert G. Zalosh



Construction Considerations

Frequency occurring fire spread routes



ISO TC 92, SC4 Fire Safety Engineering



Construction Considerations

- ▶ Structural and thermal properties of construction material
- ▶ Fire resistance analytical calculations
- ▶ Fire resistance testing for listing
- ▶ Fire wall design and loss experience
- ▶ Insulated metal deck roofing
- ▶ Water spray protection of structural steel
- ▶ Protective insulation materials on structural steel



Protective spray insulation material for structural steel

www.barrierst.com



Storage of Flammable Chemicals

- ▶ Chemical properties must be considered
 - Flash point
 - Auto-ignition temperatures
 - Extinguishability
- ▶ Storage tanks
 - Capacity
 - Tank spacing
 - Emergency ventilation
 - Fire suppression
 - General designs should be approved to meet specifications (such as FM Global – Factory Mutual)





Ignition Sources

- ▶ Sparks produced during welding or maintenance
 - General Motors Livonia Fire, 1953
 - 6 fatalities, \$35M US property loss
- ▶ Discarded cigarette
 - Ford Cologne Fire, 1977
 - \$100M US property loss
- ▶ Open flame
 - Sandoz Basel Fire, 1986
 - \$60M US property loss,
 - Thousands experienced health issues
- ▶ Electrical arc in wiring
 - Hinsdale Telephone Office Fire, 1988
 - Between \$40 – 60M US property loss





Security Considerations

- ▶ Access of fire fighting personnel into secured areas
- ▶ Cable fire affecting security system reliability
 - Effects pumps, lights, cameras, security gates, etc.
- ▶ Occupant load of security personnel in spaces with insufficient exits
- ▶ Fire as a means of distraction
 - Pulls resources away



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Need for fire walls and other passive barriers
- ▶ Need for roof deck fire spread tests
- ▶ Need to regularly test sprinkler water flow rates and to fixed known impairments
- ▶ Need for fire resistant electrical cables
- ▶ Need for containment of contaminated water run-off



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Need to upgrade warehouse sprinkler protection to accommodate storage of more combustible commodities
- ▶ Need for smoke control in facilities with equipment vulnerable to damage from smoke and corrosive combustion products
- ▶ Need for adequate emergency egress provisions for large number of workers
- ▶ Need for improved protection of flammable liquid warehouse



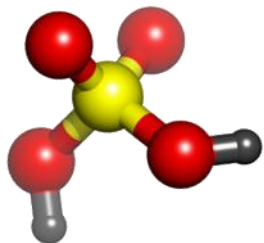
Areas Needing Improvement

- ▶ Need for automatic detection and suppression systems in areas containing large quantities of electrical equipment and cables
- ▶ Need for adequate emergency egress provisions for large numbers of workers
- ▶ Effective sprinkler protection for flammable liquids in plastic containers



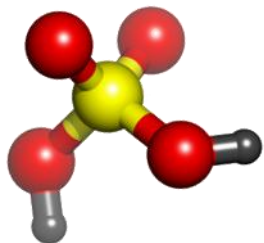
Areas Needing Improvement

- ▶ Need for compartmentation via reliable fire walls and doors in large manufacturing facilities
- ▶ Need to restrict storage of special hazard commodities in general purpose warehouses
- ▶ Problems caused by residue of flammable liquids on building walls, ceilings, and floors

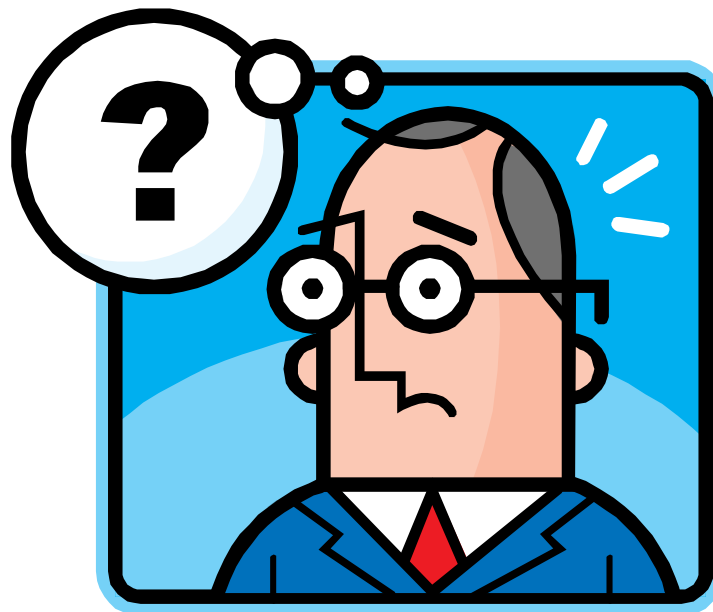


Summary of Key Points

- ▶ Broad overview of industrial fire protection
- ▶ Engineering based methodology to identify potential fire hazards
- ▶ Context of historic fires
- ▶ Security considerations which may be compromised by fire or explosion



Questions?



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References and Additional Sources

- ▶ *Industrial Fire Protection*, Robert Zalosh
- ▶ *SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering*
- ▶ *Fire Dynamics*, Dougal Drysdale
- ▶ *Principles of Smoke Management*, John Klote and James Milke
- ▶ *Ignition Handbook*, Vytenis Babrauskas

