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Fundamentals of SH&E: Fire Protection 101C Stephen J. Musur CSP, CFPS Chubb Group of Insurance Companies

Fundamentals of SH&E

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Agenda

Introduction

- Science of Fire
- Fire Controls
- Fire Protection
 - Detection / Suppression
- Testing Maintenance
- Warehousing / Storage
- Questions





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Classic Definition

Fire is rapid oxidation with the evolution of heat and light



The Fire Triangle



Triangle? Not a Tetrahedron?



What's Burning?



E



- Some of the heat is lost (convective)
- Some of the heat goes back into the system (conductive)
- Heat produces vapors



• Vapors ignite and propagate







- Defined Fire
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range



- Remove one or more legs of the triangle
 - Omit the Fuel
 - Inert the Atmosphere
 - Cool the Reaction
 - Interfere with the combustion process

Applied Controls – Fuel

- Segregate fuel from processes
- Minimize the amount of fuel
- Use less combustible materials
- Housekeeping Dusts



- Can the process operate rich?
- Can the process operate lean?
- Inert the operation N2, CO2

Applied Controls – Heat

- Exothermic processes
- Frictional heat
- Chemical heat
- Sparks Electrical



Applied Controls – Heat

- Sparks Welding, Hot Work
- Grinding
- Open Flames
- Lightning
- Smoking



Applied Controls – Chain Reaction

- Less Hazardous Materials
 - Water Soluble vs. Oil Based
 - Paints, Cutting Oils, Lubricants, Inks Etc.
- Fire Resistive Materials
 - Phenols, PVC's vs. Polyethylene, Styrene
 - Inerting Fillers for Plastic
 - Intumescents

Applied Controls – Management

Written Procedures

- Air Sampling
- Hot Work
- Self Inspections

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• Outside Contractors



- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls

System Controls – Devices

- Fire Detection
- Fire Suppression





System Controls – Devices

Fire Detection

- Smoke
 - Ionization, Photoelectric
- Heat
 - Restorable, Rate of Rise
- Beam
 - Obscuration
- Flame
- IR



System Controls – Devices

Four Stages of a Fire

- Incipient
 - Microseconds to days
- Smoldering
 - Microseconds to hours
- Flaming
- High Heat



Time – Temperature Curve



TIME MEASURED IN SECONDS, MINUTES, OR HOURS 23

Time – Temperature Curve





- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls
- Stages of a Fire
- Fire Detection

- Wet
- Dry
- Anti-freeze
- Deluge
- Pre-action
- Combined Dry/Preaction
- Cycling On-Off
- Ref: NFPA 13



- Wet
 - Most Common
 - Water in the pipes
 - Very efficient
 - Requires Heat



- Dry
 - Compressed air in pipes
 - Needs more devices
 - Used in areas subject to freezing
 - Limited in size



- Anti-Freeze
 - Filled with a glycol solution
 - Limited in size
 - Some applications to storage occupancies



- Deluge
 - Nothing in pipes
 - Sprinklers are open
 - Used in High Hazard areas / processes
 - Requires an actuation system



- Pre-Action
 - Pipes filled with a compressed air
 - Requires an actuation system
 - Minimizes water damage



Terminology

- Pipe Schedule System
 - Pre 1972
 - Pipes Sized per a schedule
 - Pipes Sized based on Occupancy
 - Light, Ordinary Hazard, Extra Hazard
- Hydraulically Calculated Systems
 - Pipes sized on friction loss
 - Loops and Grids MUST be Calculated
 - Risers Clearly Placarded with Design Info

Terminology

- Branch lines
- Crossmains
- Feedmains
- Risers
- Sprinklers



- Tree Systems
- Looped Systems
- Gridded Systems







- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls
- Stages of a Fire
- Fire Detection
- Sprinkler Systems

Sprinklers

- Upright
- Pendant
- Special Application



Sprinklers

- Upright
- Pendant
- Quick Response
- Fast Response
- Nozzles
- Storage
- Special Application







Standard response 5-mm bulb

Fast response element



Fast response link



Standard response solder link sprinkler

Sprinklers

- Good for 50 years
 - Must be tested
- Orientation
 - Replace like kind
- Obstructions
 - Adequate Clearance





- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls
- Stages of a Fire
- Fire Detection
- Sprinkler Systems

Other Systems

- CO2
- Halon 1301 1211
- Clean Agents
 - FM 200
 Inergen
 Sapphire
- Dry Chemical
- Liquid Salts
- Explosion Suppression



Other Systems

- Used Where water damage is an issue
- Can be used in inhabited areas
- Preferred for Specific Hazards
- Special Maintenance Needs



So Far

- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls
- Stages of a Fire
- Fire Detection
- Sprinkler Systems
- Special Extinguishing Systems

System Controls – First Attack

Hand Held Extinguishers

- Water
- Dry Chemical
- CÓ2
- Metal Powders
- Liquid Salts
- Class Of Fire
 - "A" Paper, Cloth, Wood
 - "B" Oils, Grease
 - "C" Electrical
 - "D" Metal
 - "K" Kitchens



System Controls – First Attack

- Hand Held Extinguishers
 - Placement
 - Size
 - Correct Extinguisher for Class of Fire
 - Employee Training
 - Maintenance
 - Obsolete Extinguishers



Maintenance

- Maintenance for Suppression Systems
 - Prescribed by NFPA 25
- Maintenance for Detection Systems
 - Prescribed by NFPA 72
- Fire Extinguishers
 - Prescribed by NFPA 10
- Document the Work / Tests

So Far

- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls
- Stages of a Fire
- Fire Detection
- Sprinkler Systems
- Special Extinguishing Systems
- Hand Held Extinguishers

NFPA Commodity Classifications

• Class I

Noncombustible product on pallet or in carton

• Class II

Noncombustible product in wood or multi-layered carton

• Class III

Combustible product, with or without cartons, pallets and not > 5% Class A plastic

NFPA Commodity Classifications

• Class IV

Product with 25% (vol.) 15% (wt.) Group A Plastic

- Plastics
 - Group "A" POLY anything, Styrene
 - Group "B" Nylon, Rubber
 - Group "C" Phenols, CPVC
- Idle Pallets



Remember – The Brick

Protection Based On:

- What is being Stored?
 - Commodity Class (Worst Class)
- How is it being Stored?
 - Stock pile. Racks, Shelves, Multi-row Racks
- How High is it being Stored?
 - Measured from floor to top of storage
- How High is the ceiling?



Changes in Storage and Warehousing

- Metal vs. Plastic
- Stock Pile vs. Rack
- Rack vs. Multi-Row Racks
- 12', 20', 22', 25' Storage?

In general change is *Not* good



Whew !! – Were Finished

- Principles of Extinguishment
- Know what is burning
- Concept of Flammability Range
- Applied Controls
- Stages of a Fire
- Fire Detection
- Sprinkler Systems
- Special Extinguishing Systems
- Hand Held Extinguishers
- Storage



