



Session 2B

Protection of Mini-Load ASRS Arrangements Containing Open-Top Plastic Containers

Mini-load type automatic storage and retrieval systems containing plastic open-top containers have become more prevalent in warehouse occupancies. While they afford the warehouse manager a means of increasing the efficiency of material handling operations, they can be a challenge to automatic sprinkler protection due to their dense storage arrangements, limited flue spaces, the presence of plastic materials, and the water collection of open-top containers. This presentation will discuss the testing that has been conducted at FM Global over the past several years to determine how best to protect these types of storage arrangements.



Weston C. Baker, Jr.
AVP, Senior Engineering Technical Specialist
Engineering Standards Group
FM Global Research

Wes Baker is a Senior Engineering Technical Specialist in the Engineering Standards division at FM Global. He is a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and an NFPA member serving on both the NFPA 13 Installation and NFPA 13 Discharge committees. He has been with FM Global for almost 32 years and is currently responsible for data sheets related to the protection of storage, as well as the installation guidelines for sprinklers that are used for storage protection.

Mr. Baker was named the 2011 William M. Carey award recipient by the Fire Protection Research Foundation, an affiliate of the NFPA, for his technical paper, "Storage Sprinkler Design Criteria" – the concept behind the recent release of FM Global's *Operating Standard / Property Loss Prevention Data Sheet 8-9, Storage of Class 1, 2, 3, 4 and Plastic Commodities*. The William M. Carey Award is presented to the individual / paper voted most outstanding in the fire suppression category. Mr. Baker also received a Special Achievement Award from NFPA in 2015 for the contributions he provided on updating the 2016 Edition of NFPA 13 regarding guidelines for commodity classification.

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