



## Session 1A

### Imperial Sugar Refinery – What Happened and Why?

On February 7, 2008, a combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia killed 13 people and injured 40 others. In this 1.5 presentation, the Imperial Sugar explosion will be reconstructed and lessons learned from the event will be reviewed. Misconceptions about what REALLY happened will also be discussed (psst – it is not what the US Chemical Safety Board concluded).



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**President**  
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Mr. John M. Cholin, PE, is President of J.M.Cholin Consultants, Inc., a fire protection consulting and engineering firm. Mr. Cholin received his Bachelors in Chemistry from Colgate University and a Master of Electrical Engineering from the Stevens Institute of Technology. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer by the State of Connecticut in the discipline of Fire Protection Engineering.

Mr. Cholin is the principal of J.M.Cholin Consultants, Inc., focusing primarily on dust explosion hazard management and performance-based design addressing industrial fire protection issues. He holds 12 patents relating to fire protection systems.

He is a member of: NFPA and NSPE, a Fellow of the SFPE, and a member of the NFPA Technical Committee on Initiating Devices for the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems Code, NFPA Technical Committee on Handling and Conveying of Dusts, Vapors and Gases, NFPA Technical Committee on Wood, Paper and Cellulosic Materials, NFPA Technical Committee on Fundamentals of Combustible Dusts, and NFPA Technical Correlating Committee on Combustible Dusts.

He has authored four chapters for the 18th, 19th and 20th editions of the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook; He also serves as a seminar instructor for the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Georgia Tech. and OSHA.

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