



Session 1A

Event Reconstruction: Explosion Involving an Agricultural Product Storage Silo

This session was initially planned to address an explosion in an ink manufacturing facility. Unfortunately, the litigation resulting from that incident has not been concluded. We are substituting the incident analysis of a corn storage silo incident where the litigation has concluded and the incident can now be considered for the lessons it has to teach.

A fire was discovered in one of two adjacent and interconnected whole corn storage silos. Fire management operations were commenced. After several weeks the operator found it necessary to off-load railcars into the "uninvolved silo". An explosion resulted. This presentation reconstructs the event and, hopefully, uncovers lessons that the fire protection engineering community will find beneficial.



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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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