



Session 3C:

The FPE's Postmortem of a Large Steel Mill Fire

In early 2018, a large fire loss occurred at a temper mill production line at a domestic steel company. The fire spread to involve the entire mill causing over \$23,000,000 million in property and business interruption losses.

The mill was protected by automatic fire suppression systems designed and installed based on loss prevention recommendations which included a foam-water sprinkler system for certain areas.

Immediately after the fire, the plant began recovery and remediation activities including the demolition and reconstruction of the damaged mill and its fire protection systems.

Several weeks later, fire protection engineers were retained to investigate the loss including the performance of the installed fire protection system. This session will present a case study of this loss including the fire loss description, expected vs. actual fire system performance and a video/timeline of the fire's progression. Related pitfalls, promises and problems of the investigation will also be reviewed

Nick Nava
Exponent

Mr. Nava is a licensed fire protection engineer with design and testing experience. He investigates fire protection system failures and NFPA code compliance in residential, commercial, and industrial occupancies. This includes failures of fire protection systems to operate during fires and inadvertent operation due to freezing, rust/oxidation, and mechanical damage

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