



HAZARD CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
FIRE, VAPOR, AND CONTAMINATION CONTROL SOLUTIONS

International Paper – Cordele, GA Hydraulic Pit Fire

Case History

Project: International Paper Plant

Location: Cordele, GA

Details: In the mid to late 1990s, International Paper experienced a hydraulic pit press fire. The fire started in a hydraulic pit and consisted of hydraulic oil, paper and pulp. The first attempt at extinguishment was with water. When that was ineffective, the fire department applied AFFF. They were not able to extinguish the fire using AFFF. One of the fire departments who responded to the mutual aid call was a user of F-500 Encapsulator Agent. That fire department applied F-500 at a 3% solution. It immediately put out the fire and penetrated into the hydraulic soaked pulp to prevent reignition and provided permanent burn back resistance.

Result: As a result of the performance of F-500 in extinguishing the fire, when the hydraulic pit press was refurbished the plant managers decided to install a fixed fire protection system to protect this area. The system consisted of an open deluge system and a bladder tank filled with F-500. The fire protection contractor on the project was International Fire Protection. The system was submitted to the local authority having jurisdiction for approval. The insurance company for International Paper was FM Global. Initially FM Global was reluctant to approve the fixed system due to lack of knowledge of F-500. However, when they were informed of how F-500 extinguished the fire where AFFF and water were incapable of doing so, the system was approved. It consists of a 150-gallon bladder tank filled with F-500, feeding a 3" diameter riser. The interesting part of this project from an HCT stand point is this predated the F-500 Concentrate Control System bladder tank style. International Fire Protection purchased the bladder tank from Ansul and the tank was filled and proportion tested using F-500. The system has been in operation now for 10 years and has performed flawlessly each time there has been an incident that required a discharge of the system.

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