

Damage Limiting Construction – Part 6 Conclusion



Damage Limiting Construction- Part 6. HCI Systems, Inc.

This segment concludes the series on damage limiting construction techniques as it relates to overpressure caused by a fire ball event (i.e., Deflagration). Although this series was focused on a coal dust deflagration, it is equally applicable for other combustible dusts, vapors and gas clouds.

Deflagration events occur more often than one might think. The more damaging ones like the corn mill explosion that occurred just last week in Wisconsin is one example. If you look at the photos on the Wisconsin event you will notice that the entire building appears to have been destroyed. Obviously, damage limiting construction was not installed for that structure.

I recall the quote "*Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it*" by George Santayana. This is why this series of articles is valid today as it was back then.

The photo on the left is how I saw the plant after the event. The photo on the right is how we left it after it was re-constructed. At that time the "Humpty Dumpty" team was focused on this plant but it was the start of a \$50+ million dollar dust control project encompassing all that company's coal plants. We were later called the "Dust Busters".

I would like to thank all the contractors and engineering firms that helped with this project. I also like to extend special credit to the other core team members:

- Thomas Dilla



- Edward Forsner
- Greg Zbasnik
- John Henderson

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