

This case study came from the owner of Sure Shot Sandblasting and a fire in his newly built shop. Part A below is taken directly from a CTV Edmonton article in 2009.

Over \$1 Million Damage in Massive Industrial Fire

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"A massive fire that broke out at a sandblasting business, located in the area of 222nd Street and 115 Avenue, is estimated at \$1 million in damages.

Fire officials were on the scene of Sure Shot Sandblasting and Painting around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

The fire was at a building under construction within the industrial area. Construction crews were inside the building at the time, welding steel structures, when spray foam insulation caught fire. John Muir, Spokesperson with the Edmonton Fire Department said that crews "were doing some welding at the site and flames from the welder came in contact with insulation and fire spread quite quickly after that point."

The fire spread quickly through the building. Vince Goudreau, who works at Solvent Buddy, a nearby business, told CTV News he and his co-workers assisted fire crews by providing a 22,000 litre vacuum truck filled with water to help put out the blaze.

The additional water was used by fire crews to help snuff out the remaining hot spots on the west side of the building.

No injuries have been reported and because the building was under construction, the only item inside was mostly lumber."

Within two minutes of the spray foam igniting, the 24,000 sq. ft. shop was an inferno, burning completely to the ground in less than an hour.

The second part of this story was similar but with an entirely different outcome. Sure Shot owner, Brook Parker, built a new shop, again using spray foam insulation, only this time the

spray foam was protected with **SafeCoat® Latex Intumescent Paint**. Due to the highly flammable nature of spray foam, the **SafeCoat®** was applied at 80 sq. ft. per gallon, approximately twice the thickness required on other substrates such as wood or OSB. And yes, Mr. Parker said he was complaining to his guys about the amount of product they were using and additional expense, but once burned, twice shy - or "especially cautious" in this case.

Well, the unthinkable did happen again. A spray pump in the shop was being flushed with solvent when it shorted out and the solvent caught fire and rapidly spread. In less than one minute the building walls were under attack. The **SafeCoat® Latex** did its job to protect the foam and gave the employees time to extinguish the fire. With unprotected foam, this wouldn't have been an option. The coating had begun to intumesce (form a protective char) insulating the insulation. Once the fire was extinguished it was apparent the foam insulation and building were virtually unscathed.

In the end, the expense of coating the spray foam was minimal compared to the previous million dollar loss. Mr. Parker commented, *"That's amazing stuff; it really works! I'll stand behind that product 100% and would recommend it to anyone. It's worth every cent. My only regret is I didn't have it on my first shop."*

IMPORTANT NOTE: **SafeCoat®** provides an ignition barrier on spray foam, but always ensure **SafeCoat®** is approved for each specific project. If there is a thermal barrier requirement, as per many applications where spray foam is used, **SafeCoat®** is **NOT** an approved thermal barrier directly on foam – to date. Watch our website for updates on this.