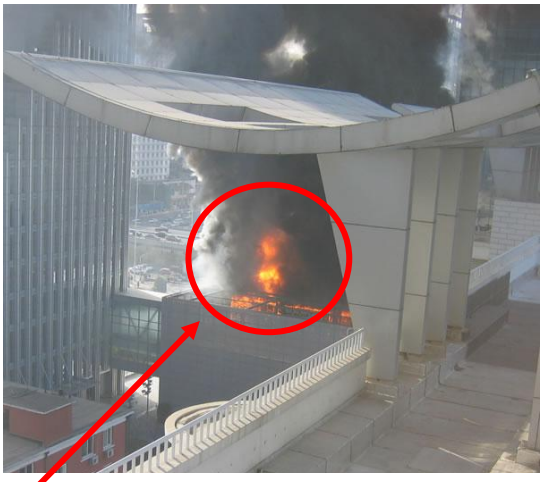
EVAPCO ON THE GO!

Steel Reduces the Potential for Flame Spread

In 2008, the FRP Cooling Towers at the Yuecheng International Center in Beijing caught fire (Picture 1, shown at right) during routine welding maintenance to the main header piping. Initially just a small fire, the flammability of the FRP Cooling Towers allowed the flames to rapidly spread across the bank of (4) FRP Cooling Towers. After the blaze was controlled, all that was left of the FRP Cooling Towers was the steel framework (Picture 2) and a pile of FRP ash. The total damages reached an estimated RMB 1,000,000. In contrast, the Z600 Galvanized Steel Cooling Towers, which were supplied by Evapco (Picture 3, below) and installed prior to the fire, did not suffer any damage during the fire and were able to handle the building cooling load within hours after the blaze was controlled.



Picture 1. (4) FRP cells on fire.



Picture 2. Steel remnants of FRP Towers.



Picture 3. Side-by-side comparison.

Galvanized and Stainless Steel are inherently nonflammable and therefore should be the preferred choice for all critical process and HVAC applications where the equipment will be located on the building roof or in close proximity to other potentially flammable sites. Ensure that you ***specify:*** materials of construction for all structural members, basins, and casing panels shall be galvanized or stainless steel in order to minimize the potential for flame spread on your next project. In order to further reduce the risk of flame spread, ***specify:*** units shall be factory assembled and FM Approved – now available with the Super Low Sound Fan option for the lowest sound levels and lowest flame spread risk in the industry!

Adam Michel

Adam Michel
China Sales Manager
Evapco, Asia/Pacific

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