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The Effects of a Water Spray Cooling System During Real Scale Halon 1301 Replacement Testing on Post Fire Suppression Compartment Reclamation

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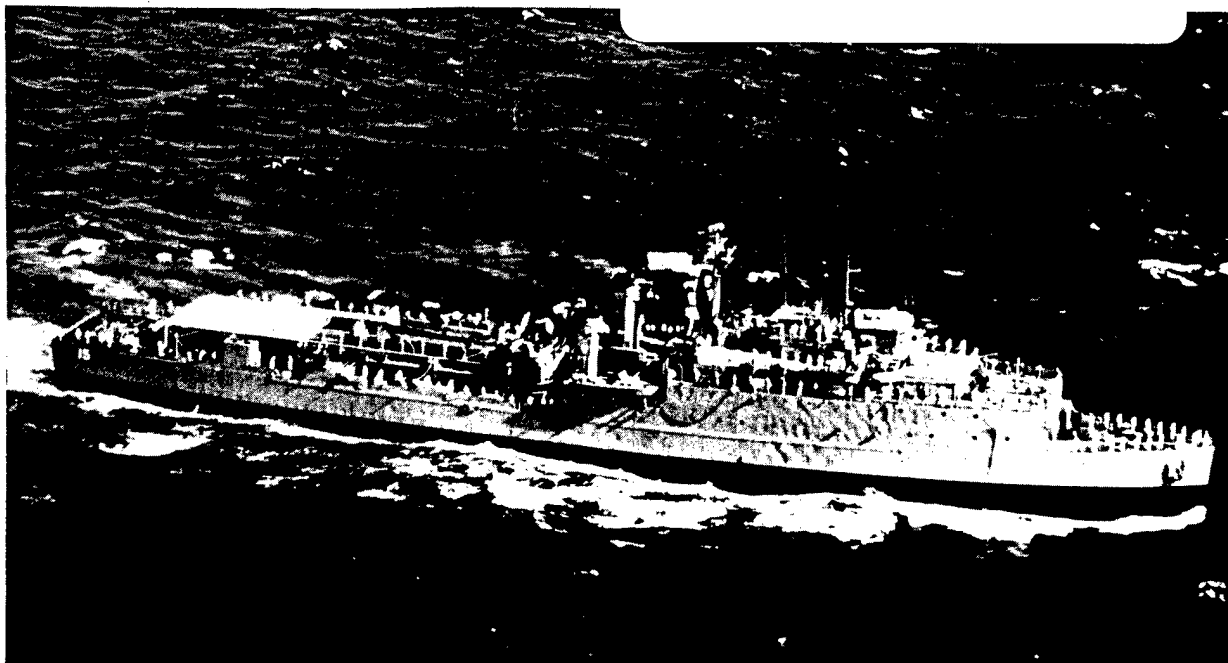
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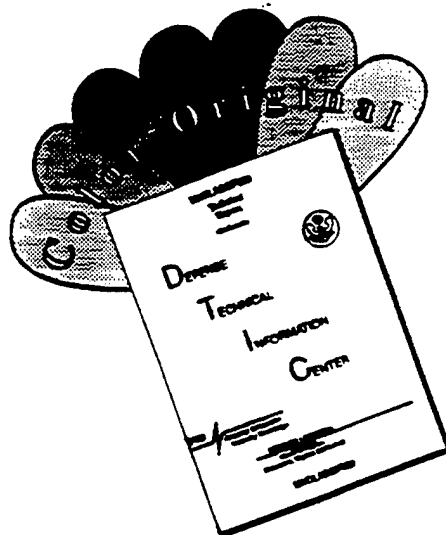


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| 13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) Real scale tests were conducted aboard the ex-USS SHADWELL with HFP (HFC-227ea, C ₃ F ₇ H, manufactured by Great Lakes Chemical Corporation as FM-200), with limited baseline comparison tests with Halon 1301. Two of the objectives of the full scale machinery space testing were to determine the optimum post fire suppression hold time (time prior to venting) and to evaluate the option of using a water spray cooling system (WSCS) to reduce compartment temperature and acid decomposition products and therefore expedite compartment reclamation. Results show that the WSCS system employed is a viable option for rapid reduction of compartment temperature. The low water pressure WSCS tested provided very rapid compartment temperature reduction in 15 seconds with less than 20 gallons of water. The ability of the WSCS to run off the ship's Fire Main Water supply or from its own relatively small pressurized water tank make it a viable option for rapid post incident compartment reentry by the fire fighting party. Tests also provided information on WSCS initiation prior to agent discharge and its effects on fire suppression and acid by-product reduction. | | | |
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THE EFFECTS OF A WATER SPRAY COOLING SYSTEM DURING REAL SCALE HALON 1301 REPLACEMENT TESTING ON POST FIRE SUPPRESSION COMPARTMENT RECLAMATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United States Navy is investigating fixed fire extinguishing systems for future use in applications where Halon 1301 total flooding systems have traditionally been used. Many candidate halon total flooding replacement chemicals were evaluated at NRL both via laboratory cup burner (reference (a)) and intermediate scale (reference (b)) 56 m³ (2000 ft³) fire extinguishment tests. Replacements can yield significant quantities of toxic and corrosive halogen acids during fire suppression (references (b, c)). After intermediate (reference (b)) and full scale testing Phase I, (reference (c)), NRL has recommended heptafluoropropane, (HFP, HFC-227ea, C₃F₇H, manufactured by Great Lakes Chemical Corporation as FM-200) as the clean agent of choice for the U. S. Navy's next ship (reference (d)). Little information has been available for the quantification of post-fire suppression compartment reentry and desmoking or venting for Halon 1301 systems. The reduced safety margins of the replacement agents along with the increased acids threat have generated a need for such testing. Phase II tests were performed in accordance with the Test Plan (references (e, f)) to help provide guidance on halon replacement system optimization and implementation.

2.0 TEST OBJECTIVES

Phase II full scale machinery space tests were conducted aboard the *ex*-USS SHADWELL located at Little Sand Island, Mobile, AL. The tests were performed with HFP, with limited baseline comparison tests performed with Halon 1301. An NRL designed Water Spray Cooling System (WSCS) was utilized to enhance fire suppression and reignition performance, reduce compartment temperatures, reduce acid decomposition product generation, and enhance acid concentration decay rate. The objectives of Phase II testing were numerous; the focus of this report is on the performance and usage of the innovative WSCS.

3.0 TEST COMPARTMENT

The test compartment aboard the *ex*-USS SHADWELL was located at the 4th deck upper and lower levels between Frames 22 and 29 with catwalks on both levels (Figure 1). The approximate dimensions of the space were 8.5 m (28 ft) long from frames 22 to 29, 6.1 m (20 ft) high from keel to 3rd deck and 8.5 m (28 ft) wide (port to starboard) at frame 29 narrowing to 7 m (23 ft) wide at frame 22. The enclosed volume was approximately 395 m³ (13,950 ft³). With the LM-2500 gas turbine mock-up occupying approximately 7% of the air space, the adjusted compartment volume became 370 m³ (13,000 ft³). The primary supply and exhaust ventilation

system in the test space provided approximately 55 air changes per hour. A second exhaust system, the acid exhaust system, was used for venting decomposition products.

The nomenclature used to identify a location in the test compartment, e.g., (4-22-3: 0.6m), was level first (4 or 5 for upper or lower), followed by the frame number (22-29) and then by its athwart ship position (0-4). Zero (0) refers to centerline, 1 and 3 to starboard, and 2 and 4 to port, with 3 and 4 being farthest away from centerline. In general, the height was expressed in meters from the level's deckplate. Thermocouple tree heights, however, were all measured from the lower level deckplate.

4.0 AGENT AND WATER SPRAY COOLING SYSTEMS

The two gaseous agent extinguishing systems (Figure 1) used in the tests, described below, were designed by MPR with the computer code TFA (reference (g)). Each system, one for HFP and one for Halon 1301, consisted of four discharge nozzles divided into two tiers.

The Halon 1301 system used standard Navy 4 hole (horizontal-cross) nozzles. The HFP discharge system used similar nozzles. However, because of the increased agent volume required to deliver effective concentrations of HFP, the nozzle diameters were larger than the standard Navy. All nozzles in all tests were oriented in the forward / aft position.

The Water Spray Cooling System (WSCS) was made out of 2.54 cm (1 inch) stainless steel tube and compression fittings. The looped system had 13 TF10FC nozzles, manufactured by Bete Fog Nozzle, Inc. The nozzles have a 120° degree full cone mist pattern. The brass nozzles had 0.64 cm (1/4 inch) male pipe connections. The WSCS was located in the compartment overhead just below the overhead stiffeners. Water for the WSCS was supplied by a 3.8 cm (1 1/2 inch) standpipe connection to the firemain. The WSCS Application Rate (WSCSAR) in liters per minute (Lpm) for Class A fires (reference (h)) was determined by:

$$\text{WSCSAR (Lpm)} = \text{Compartment Volume (m}^3\text{)} \times 0.49$$

This WSCSAR was then doubled for Class B fires (reference (I)). For a Class B fire in a compartment volume of 370 m³, the WSCSAR is 363 Lpm (96 gallons per minute; gpm). The WSCS flow rates were controlled by the firemain pressure. The calculated WSCSAR was used as guidance during shakedown testing. Due to excessive water residue in the compartment the WSCSAR was reduced to 230 Lpm for the suppression tests. The system delivered 230 Lpm (60 gpm) at 550 kPa (80 psi).

5.0 INSTRUMENTATION

The suppression agent discharge systems were instrumented to measure temperature and pressure at each of the four nozzles, as well as two locations in the piping. Pressures were also measured at one cylinder valve and check valve on the manifold. One bottle was attached to a

load cell to measure mass loss during agent discharge. In addition, the test space was instrumented to measure gas, fire and bulkhead temperatures. Compartment and fuel pressures were also monitored. A continuous gas sampling system measured oxygen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and agent concentration at two locations in the space, and in the supply and acid exhaust ducts. Two types of grab samples were taken at specified times and locations during each test. One type of grab sample (four locations) was analyzed using a Gas Chromatograph (GC) to determine agent, oxygen, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide concentrations. The other type of sample (four locations) was analyzed using an Ion Chromatograph (IC) to quantify the concentration of halide acids in the space. Seven continuous acid analyzers (CAA) were also used at different locations in the compartment for "real-time" measurements of acids via electrochemical cells.

6.0 FIRES AND TEST SCENARIOS

There were three fire locations in the machinery space. Table 1 lists the fire specifications used for the Phase II tests described in this report. Fire 3, used during Phase I testing, was not used during Phase II because of structural changes that limited access to that location. In addition to the three main fires there were 17 telltale fires (about 3 kW each) located throughout the compartment.

Table 1: Fire Specifications

| Fire | Pan Size (m x m) | Pan Area (m ²) | Pan Fire Size (MW) | F-76 Diesel Spray Flow Rate (Lpm) | F-76 Diesel Spray Fire Size (MW) |
|------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2.4 x 0.9 | 2.2 | 4.5 ^a | 5.7 - 7.9 | 3.3-4.7 ^a |
| 2 | - | - | - | 0.7 - 0.8 | 0.09-0.1 |
| 4 | - | - | - | 0.7 - 0.8 | 0.09-0.1 |

^a - The pan fire preburn just overlapped the spray fire preburn in time.

7.0 TEST SERIES

The Phase II testing consisted of seven series of tests. Series' particulars are listed in Table 2 and particulars for the tests analyzed in this report are listed in Table 3. Fire suppression tests used HFP at 10.1% design concentration (Series 3-5), or Halon 1301 at 5.2% design concentration (Series 6).

All events during testing are referenced to gaseous agent discharge initiation (time zero). Events that occurred prior to gaseous agent discharge are associated with negative time values.

Table 2: Test Series Overview

| Series No. | Agent | Fires | WSCS Application | | | | Hold Time (time prior to venting) (min) |
|------------|------------------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| | | | Before Agent Discharge | During Agent Discharge | Post Suppression | During Venting | |
| 1 | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | - |
| 2 | HFP | No | No | No | No | No | 30 |
| 3 | HFP | Yes | No | No | No | No | 5, 15, 30 |
| 4 | HFP | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | 15 |
| 5 | HFP | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 15 |
| 6 | Halon 1301 | Yes | Yes ^a | Yes ^a | No | Yes | 15 |
| 7 | HFP ^b | No | No | No | No | No | 30 |

^a - A Halon 1301 baseline test was also conducted without WSCS.

^b - Larger cylinder valve, flexible hose, and check valve compared to Standard U.S. Navy hardware.

Table 3: Test Results for HFP Tests Series 3-5, and Halon 1301 Tests Series 6

| Test No. | WCS Initiation (min:sec) (t=0 @ discharge) and Duration (min:sec) | | | | WCS SAR (Lpm) | Fire Extinguishment Times (min:sec) ^a | | | Peak HF Conc. ^b (ppm) | Agent Conc. at Fire I @ 5 and 15 sec. (%) | Peak Comp. Temp. (°C) | Peak Comp. Temp. @ Venting Initiation (°C) | First Successful Sustained Reignition* (Venting Initiated @ 15:00 min) | |
|----------|---|----------|--------------------|----------|---------------|--|------|-------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|--|--------|
| | First Application | | Second Application | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | | | | | Fire 2 | Fire 4 |
| | Initiation | Duration | Initiation | Duration | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.16b | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | d | d | d | N/A | 400 | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| 3.6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0:10 | 0:09 | 0:04 | 5000 | 4.4/ 8.9 | 420 | 70 | No | 17:00 |
| 4.2 | 5:00 | 1:00 | 15:00 | 2:00 | 230 | 0:09 | 0:12 | 0:08 | 4100 | 3.8/ 10.5 | 390 | 40 | e | N/A |
| 4.5 | 0:00 | 1:00 | N/A | N/A | 230 | 0:09 | 0:11 | 0:16 | 1800 | 3.5/ 10.2 | 320 | 50 | No | 17:00 |
| 5.2 | -1:00 | 2:00 | 13:00 | 1:00 | 230 | 0:07 | 0:05 | 0:04 | 200 | 3.2/ 9.3 | 330 | 40 | e | 16:00 |
| 5.3 | -2:00 | 3:00 | N/A | N/A | 230 | 0:08 | 0:05 | -0:36 | 1300 | 4.6/ f | 190 | 40 | No | 17:00 |
| 5.4 | -1:00 | 2:00 | 15:00 | 2:00 | 150 | 0:09 | 0:12 | 0:07 | 2000 | f | 270 | 50 | No | 18:00 |
| 6.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0:09 | 0:11 | 0:06 | 1100 | f | 230 | 55 | No | 18:00 |
| 6.2 | -1:00 | 2:00 | 15:00 | 2:00 | 230 | -0:06 | 0:04 | -0:46 | 200 | f | 300 | 45 | No | 19:00 |

a - Times are determined from visual observations of IR video.

b - HF peaks from Continuous Acid Analyzers.

c - Reignitions attempted for the every minute from agent discharge until a successful reignition was achieved, up to 5 minutes after venting initiation.

d - Fuel to spray fires was secured 10 seconds after discharge initiation would have occurred (control fire- no suppression agent used).

e - None attempted due to equipment failure.

f - Data not available.

8.0 RESULTS

8.1 Fire Suppression and Reignition Prevention

A preliminary summary of Series 3-6 test results is shown in Table 3. These data are based on visual observation of IR video. Photographs 1 and 2 show Fire I at 85 and at 95 seconds after ignition respectively. The WSCS was initiated 90 seconds after ignition. Photograph 2 illustrates the effects of 5 seconds of WSCS application. Agent discharge was at 150 seconds after ignition. All fires were extinguished for each scenario tested. Reignitions were attempted at Fires 2 and 4. The attempts were performed every minute until a successful reignition occurred. No attempts were made after the first 5 minutes of venting. Results indicate that WSCS introduction prior to agent discharge as well as during the venting enhances reignition protection. Also, at the agent design concentrations tested Halon 1301 provided better reignition protection than HFP.

Although there was no dramatic difference in overhead relative temperature decrease (see Section 8.2, Temperature Reduction) between Test 4.2 and Test 3.6 (no WSCS), the introduction of the WSCS during venting prevented a sustained reignition (Test 3.6) and resulted in only a brief reignition lasting 3 seconds.

8.2 Temperature Reduction

8.2.1 WSCS Not Used

Figure 2 shows the measured temperatures from the aft thermocouple tree during Test 3.6. The introduction of the agent in the compartment (flash cooling) and the suppression of the fires reduced the ambient temperatures. The maximum measured temperature (aft thermocouple tree) did not decrease to 100°C until 180 seconds after agent discharge initiation.

8.2.2 WSCS Initiated At Same Time As Agent Discharge

For Test 4.5 (Figure 3) the WSCS was initiated simultaneously with the gaseous agent discharge. The WSCS was run for 60 seconds at a WSCSAR of 230 Lpm (60 gpm). Within 40 seconds after discharge initiation, all aft thermocouple tree temperatures were below 50°C. The cooling effect of the WSCS is clearly visible.

8.2.3 WSCS Initiated Before Agent Discharge

During Test 5.2 the WSCS was initiated 60 seconds before agent discharge for a 120 seconds application, and at 780 seconds after discharge initiation for a 60 seconds application. Figure 4 shows the measured temperatures from the aft thermocouple tree. The peak temperature from the aft thermocouple tree was measured at 320°C just prior to WSCS activation. The most dramatic temperature reduction is observed in the upper level of the compartment. At agent

discharge (60 seconds after WSCS initiation) the peak measured temperature was 60°C. Within 20 seconds after agent discharge initiation the measured aft thermocouple tree temperatures were all below 40°C. In a real shipboard fire, the introduction of the water spray prior to agent discharge would drastically limit flame spread and reduce damage by reducing compartment temperature. Similar WSCS effectiveness is expected when used with other halon-like agents.

8.2.4 WSCS Initiated After Agent Discharge

The effects on compartment temperature of the WSCS initiation after fire suppression are demonstrated in Test 4.2 (Figure 5). For this test the first WSCS application was initiated 300 seconds after agent discharge initiation and lasted 60 seconds. A second application, for 120 seconds, was initiated simultaneously with compartment venting at 900 seconds. The first WSCS application reduced overhead temperature from 70°C to below 40°C with 75 liters (20 gallons) of water within 20 seconds. The second WSCS application, in conjunction with the venting, reduced the temperature from 35°C, to below 25°C within 20 seconds compared to a decrease from 65°C to below 55°C in 100 seconds for Test 3.6 (no WSCS used).

8.3 Hydrogen Fluoride Generation and Mitigation

8.3.1 WSCS Not Used

The reported peak measured values are from one of the Continuous Acid Analyzers (CAA) located in the upper level of the compartment. Hydrogen fluoride (HF) values for HFP tests without the WSCS were 5000 parts per million (ppm) for Test 3.6 and 4100 ppm for Test 4.2. For the Halon 1301 (Test 6.1) the measured peak was 1100 ppm. The higher HF generated values associated with HFP are consistent with Phase I testing.

8.3.2 WSCS Initiated At Same Time As Agent Discharge

The initiation of the WSCS at the same time as agent discharge (Test 4.5) limited HF generation to a peak value of 1800 ppm, compared to over 4000 ppm for tests without WSCS.

8.3.3 WSCS Initiated Before Agent Discharge

The initiation of the WSCS one minute prior to agent discharge (Test 5.2) limited HF generation to a peak value of 200 ppm (Figure 6), compared to values over 4000 ppm for tests without WSCS. Similarly for Halon 1301, for Test 6.2 (with WSCS initiation at one minute prior to agent discharge) peak HF recorded value was 200 ppm compared to 1100 ppm for the test without the WSCS. This drastic drop in HF peak values is a result of flame inhibition and lower flame temperatures resulting from the oxygen displacement associated with the conversion of water to steam and the reduced compartment air temperatures.

8.3.4 WSCS Initiated After Agent Discharge

The capability of the WSCS to scrub or remove HF from the air was examined during Test 4.2 where the WSCS was initiated 300 seconds after agent discharge. The HF concentration drop at 300 seconds in Figure 7 illustrates the WSCS acid scrubbing performance.

9.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Results show that the innovative WSCS usage significantly reduced compartment temperatures. Overhead temperature was reduced from over 250°C to less than 60°C in less than 5 seconds from WSCS/agent discharge initiation. For comparison, the overhead temperature over the same interval dropped only 50°C with agent discharge alone. Results also showed that the WSCS dramatically reduced HF generation as well as accelerated the acid decay rate.

Phase II preliminary results show that the employed WSCS is a viable technical option for rapid reduction of compartment temperature. The low pressure WSCS tested provided very rapid compartment temperature reduction in 15 seconds with less than 75 liters (20 gallons) of water. The ability of the WSCS to run off the ship's firemain or from its own pressurized water tank make it a viable system for shipboard installation.

Compartment reclamation initiation is a function of fire suppression, reignition potential, compartment temperatures and atmospheric acid product concentrations. The firefighting team reentry and compartment reclamation procedures depend on the particulars of a fire scenario: type of space, contents, and fire suppression system. Results show that the WSCS significantly reduced compartment temperatures and is particularly effective when initiated before agent discharge. The compartment temperature reduction as well as the reduced HF generation and subsequent mitigation concentration make the WSCS a viable supplement to a gaseous suppression system. Also, WSCS can enhance a gaseous agent's reignition protection and, hence, render the compartment safer during reentry and desmoking /venting.

10.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Photograph 1



Photograph 2

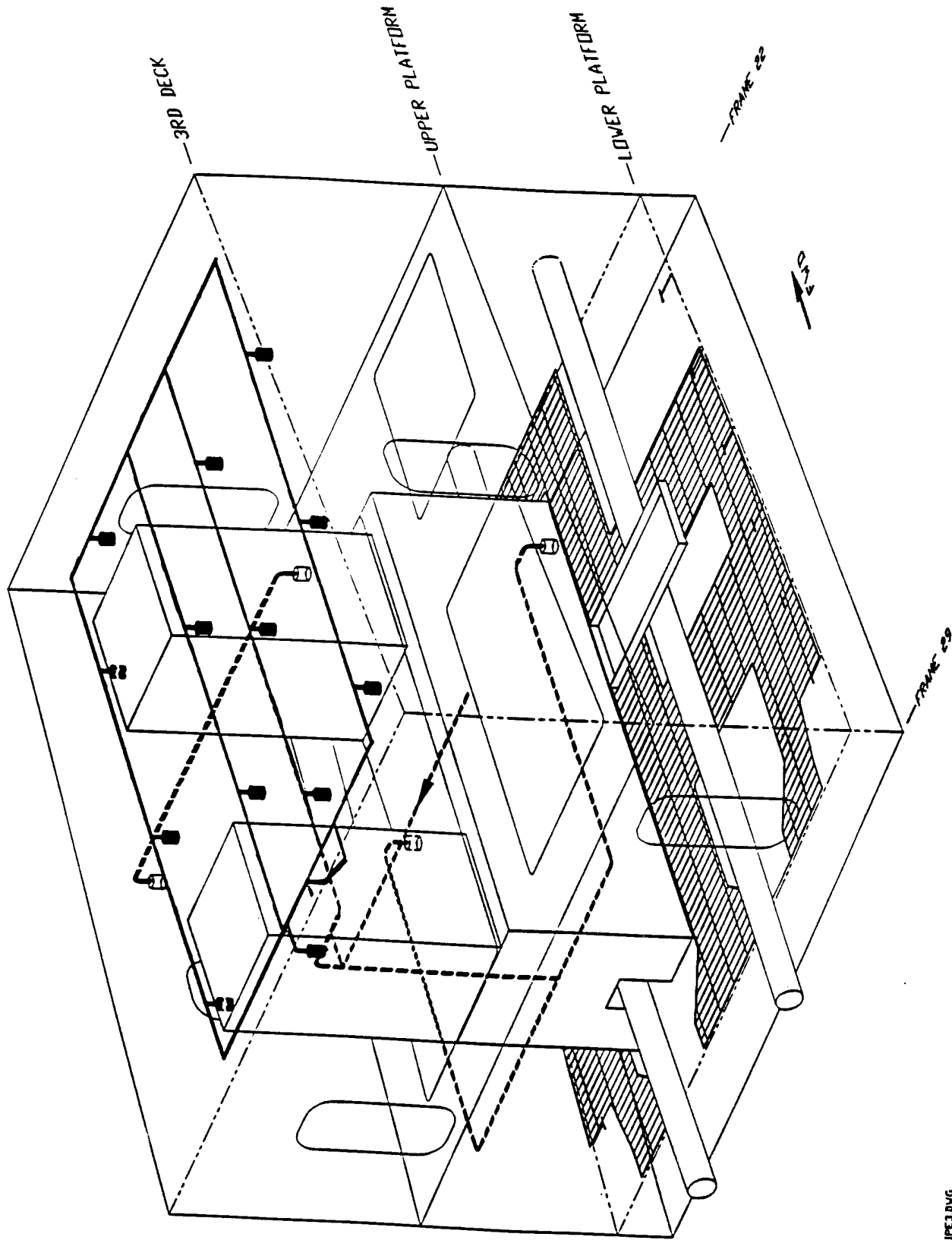
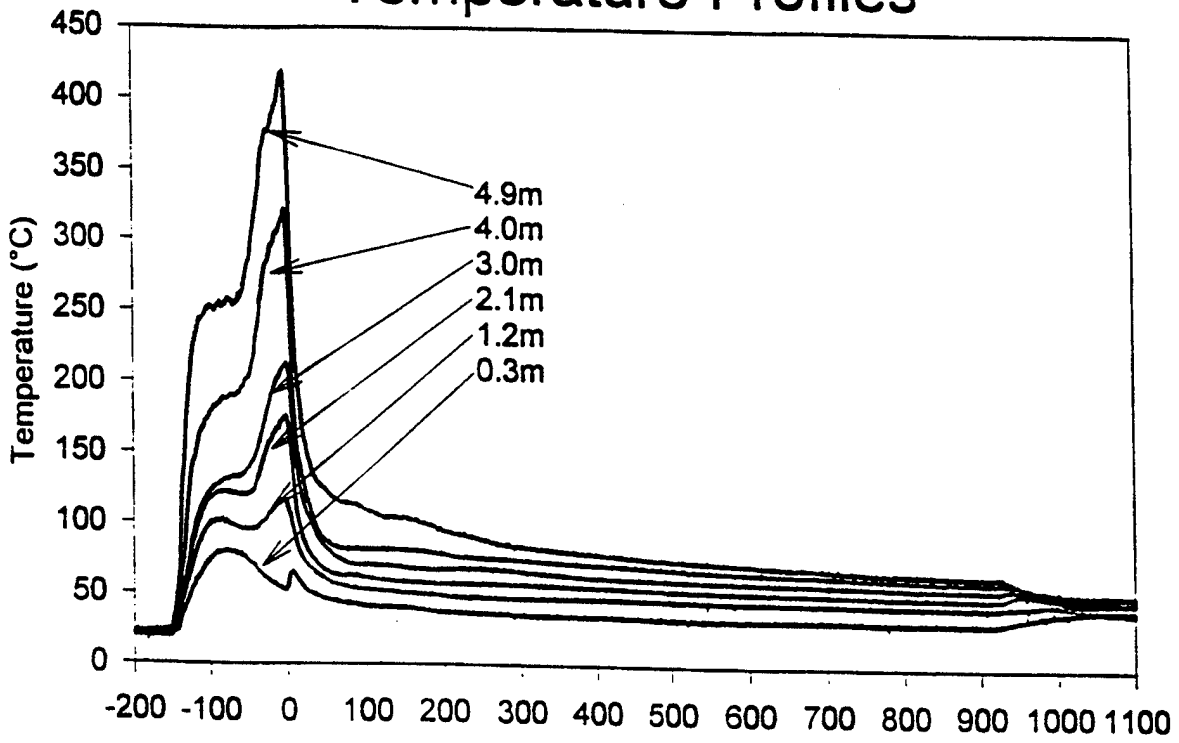


Figure 1

HFP Fire Suppression Temperature Profiles

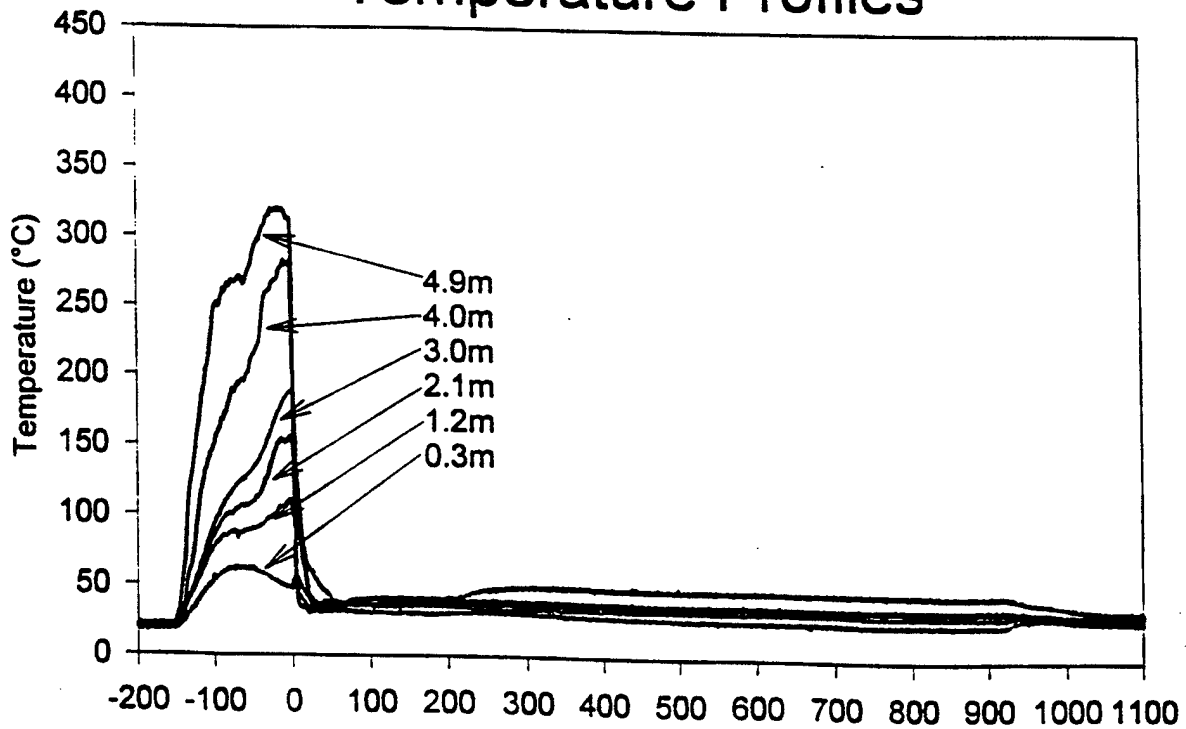


(WSCS not Activated)

Figure 2

Thermocouple Tree: 6-27-1
ex-LIBS SHADWELL
Phase 2, Test 3.8

HFP/WSCS Fire Suppression Temperature Profiles

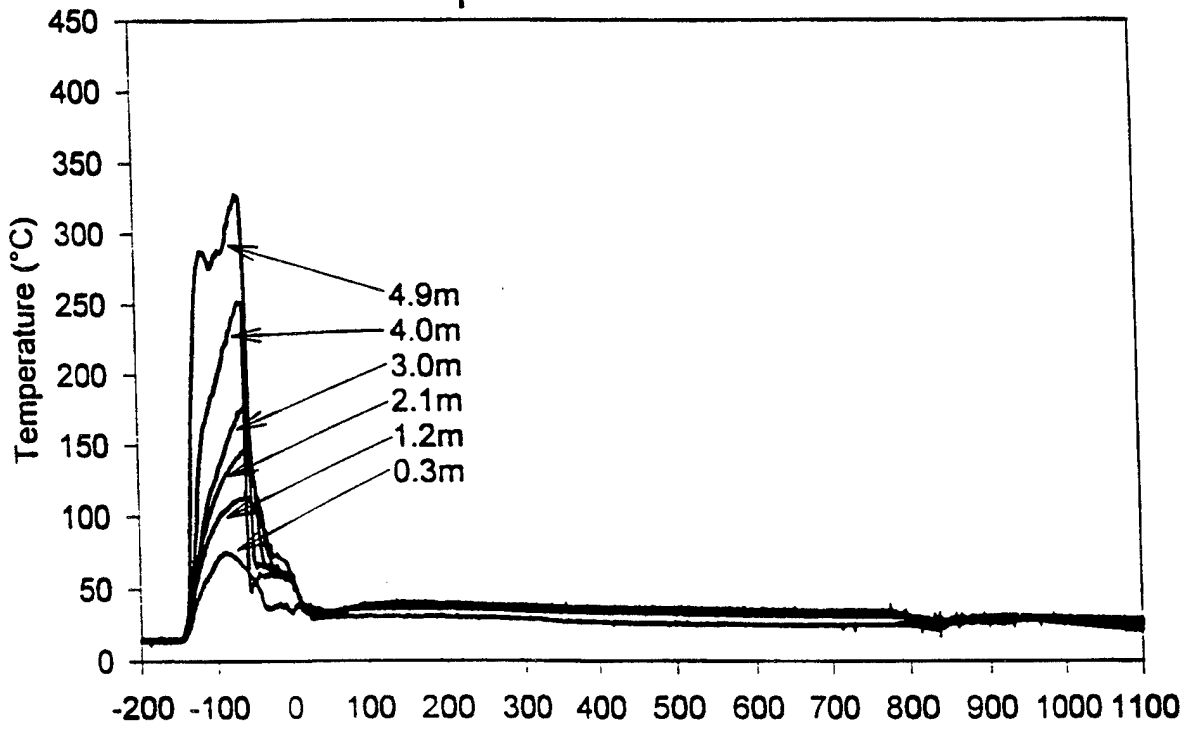


(WSCS Initiated @ t = 0s for 60s)

Figure 3

Thermocouple Tree: 6-27-1
ex-LIBS SHADWELL
Phase 2, Test 4.8

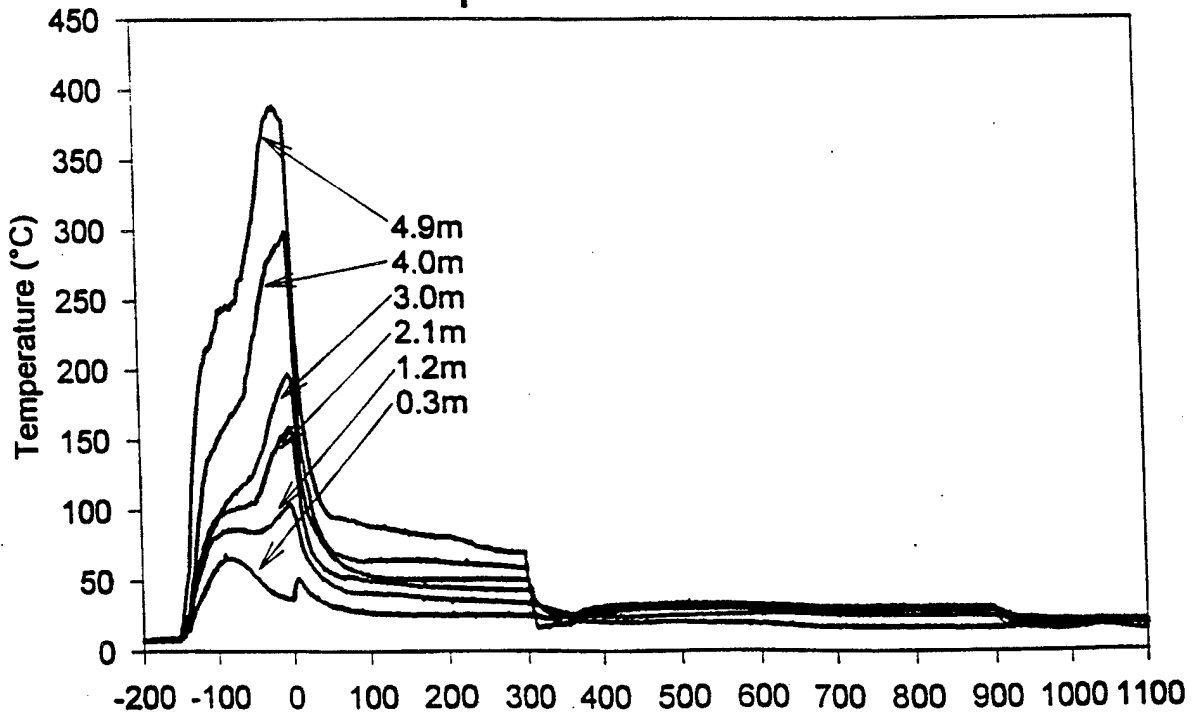
HFP/WSCS Fire Suppression Temperature Profiles



Thermocouple Tree: 6-27-1
ex-US8 SHADWELL
Phase 2, Test 6.2

Figure 4

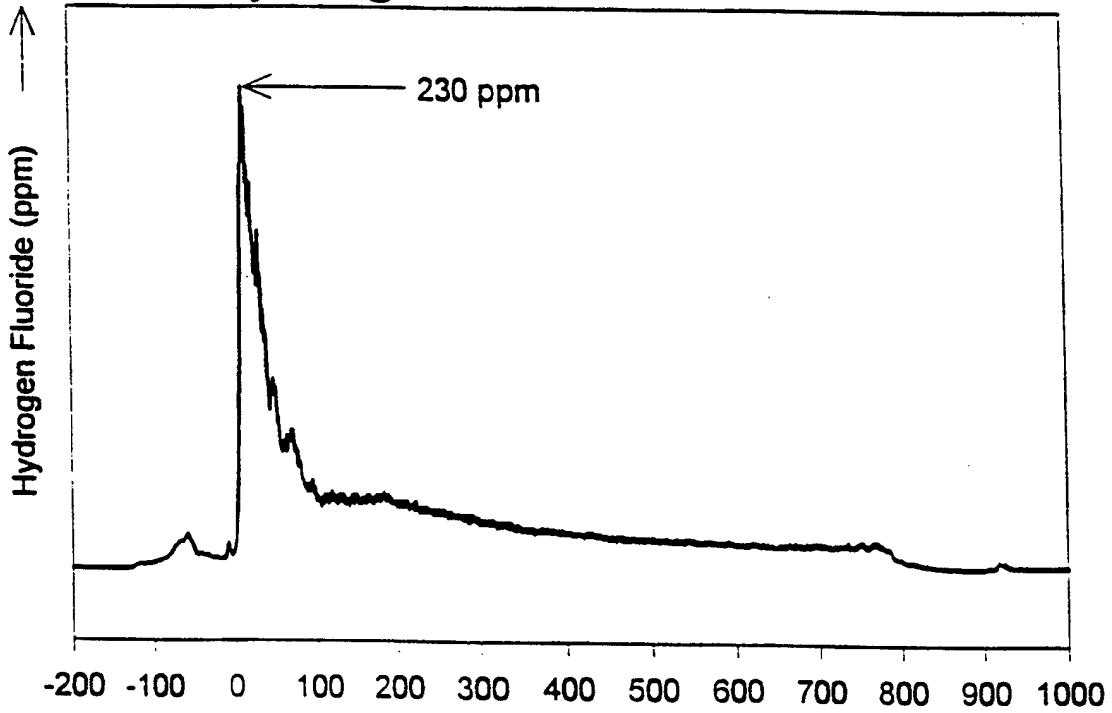
HFP/WSCS Fire Suppression Temperature Profiles



Thermocouple Tree: 6-27-1
ex-US8 SHADWELL
Phase 2, Test 4.2

Figure 5

HFP Fire Suppression Hydrogen Fluoride Profile

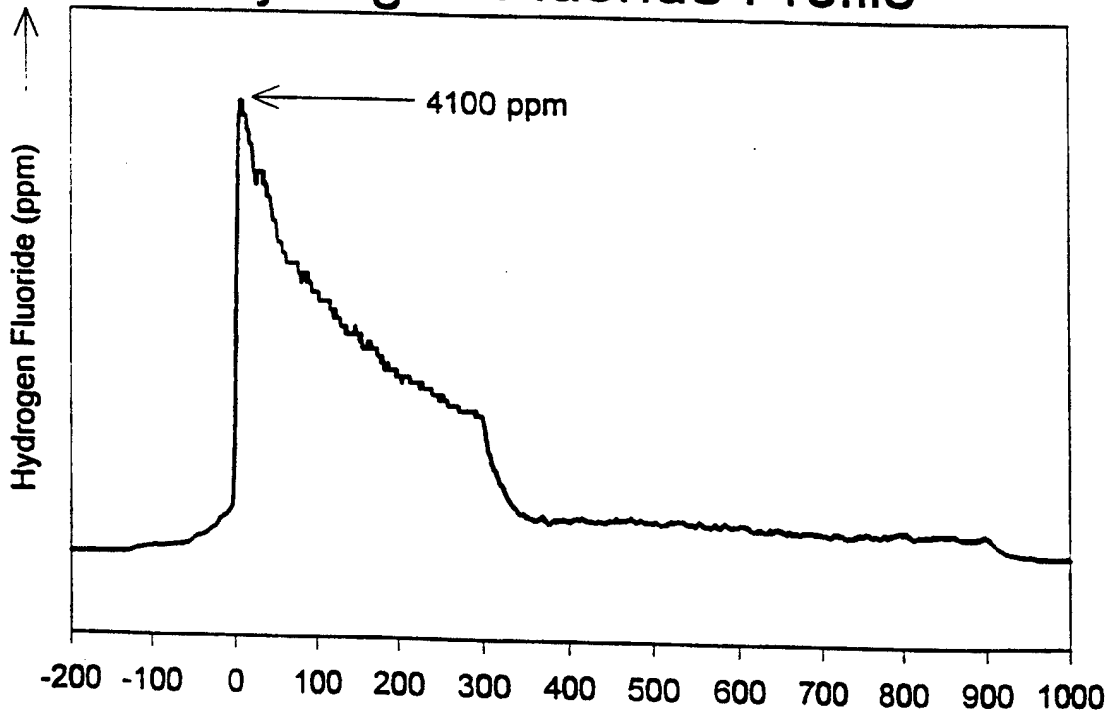


Time (seconds: agent discharge @ t = 0s)
(WSCS Initiated @ t = -60s for 120s & +780s for 60s)

HF Analyzer: 4-22-3
cs-455 SHADWELL
Phase 2, Test 6.2

Figure 6

HFP Fire Suppression Hydrogen Fluoride Profile



Time (seconds: agent discharge @ t = 0s)
(WSCS Initiated @ t = +300s for 60s & +900s for 120s)

HF Analyzer: 4-22-3
cs-455 SHADWELL
Phase 2, Test 4.2

Figure 7