



Switchgear Fire/Soot Contamination – Case Study

Coastal Technical Services (CTS) recently completed restoration services for a high-rise building in Orlando, FL. A power distribution device in the main electrical room on the bottom floor caught fire and filled the entire space with smoke and soot. The conductive and abrasive qualities of soot can wreak havoc on electrical equipment of all sizes. The switchgear, electrical panels, transformers, and lighting and security controls within the room were put at risk of unexpected failure, affecting Life Safety. Along with representatives from the manufacturer of the equipment, CTS performed an evaluation and determined that the remaining equipment in the room could be restored to pre-loss condition.

Since shutting down this equipment required removing power from the entire building, the project was phased into two outages, each lasting about 24 hours. CTS had to mobilize quickly and perform efficiently to meet the strictly defined deadlines. Most of electrical bus bars were steam-cleaned. When utilized properly, steam is effective in removing the soot while also drying rapidly, which is ideal under tight schedules. CTS's efforts also removed all the of the other residues that had deposited on the equipment prior to the loss event, making it cleaner than pre-loss condition.



The project was a success. The work was performed over a single weekend and the customer was able to reopen the building by Sunday night. Due to the on-site cleaning performed by CTS:

- *The client was able to switch power back on within 48 hours. Alternatively, equipment replacement would have taken 2-3 weeks.*
- *The switchgear and electrical controls were brought to a like-new cleanliness level.*
- *The cost of remediation was minimal compared to equipment replacement and extended business interruptions.*

*CTS provides consulting and engineering services for electronic and electromechanical equipment that has been affected by a contamination event. (Fire, Flood, Concrete/Construction dust, etc.)
When you have claims that include electronics or electromechanical equipment, call the professionals at CTS.*

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