

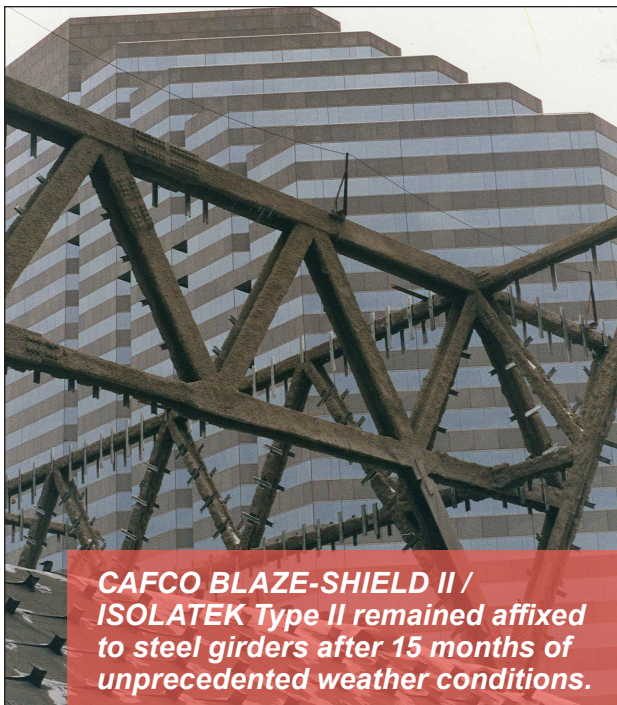
Baltimore Convention Center Expansion Project Baltimore, MD

The Baltimore Convention Center has been one of the Mid Atlantic's leading venues to host conventions, trade shows, and meetings. To accommodate the increased number of business personnel and visitors to the area, the center underwent a major expansion in 1995. ISOLATEK INTERNATIONAL'S premier inorganic passive fireproofing material, CAFCO[®] BLAZE-SHIELD[®] II / ISOLATEK[®] Type II, was chosen to protect the structural steel for the project. What wasn't known at the time was how its ability to survive extreme weather conditions during the construction phase would play a much larger role than could have ever been imagined.



CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD II / ISOLATEK Type II Spray-Applied Fireproofing has long been recognized as a superior fire protection product that provides the most impressive combination of fire resistance, thermal and acoustical properties of any one product in its class.

Jeff Kreshtool, AIA, Project Manager for the Baltimore based Cochran, Stephenson & Donkervoet, Inc., Architects/Interior Designers indicated "Our company preference is CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD II / ISOLATEK Type II, but the specification had to have at least three manufacturers. CAFCO / ISOLATEK was selected based on its ease of application and reputation for consistent performance". Also an additional consideration in choosing fire protection material was the fact that the construction schedule would dictate the material applied to the outside façade could withstand exposure to the weather for an extended period of time. What Jeff Kreshtool couldn't foresee was how critical the application of BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II would turn out to be in keeping the construction of the entire convention center on schedule.



With structural members in place in the spring of 1995, workers began spraying BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II to the outside trusses. By June of that year, heat and humidity stifled the city with record setting statistics. For over 10 days, daytime temperatures rose to over 90°F with hot and humid nights. While these conditions were a burden for the crew to work through, BLAZE-SHIELD II's / Type II's cement based formula, with its excellent pumping ability and ease of application, performed as expected.

According to the fireproofing contractor, Jerry Strieter of Southern Insulation, Inc., "Any other comparable fireproofing may have been compromised by these conditions, but our spray crew found BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II applied with great ease and required no special procedures."

By the end of 1995, the BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II on the outside had been exposed for nearly 8 months. That's when the December '95 blizzard struck the city with sub freezing temperatures, heavy snow and driving sleet. "The winter of 1995-1996 was one of those things you just can't account for in your construction schedule" commented Kreshtool. "We were fortunate that we were able to continue work on the interior of the building."

When the storm finally cleared, Jerry Strieter went back to inspect his work and found Isolatek International's CAFCO® / ISOLATEK® brand fire protection still clad to the steel girders. BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II was making everyone a believer in dry-mix inorganic fire protection.

It was now the spring of 1996 and the outside façade was still not completely enclosed. Portions of BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II had been exposed for over 12 months and had weathered a record heat wave and a blizzard. If the design team were not believers in the toughness of dry mix fire protection by now, all remaining doubts were about to be erased.



In June of 1996, the remnants of Hurricane Bertha blew into town, drowning the city (and the exposed BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II) with driving winds and soaking rain. Many feared the fireproofing would not be able to withstand these conditions after the harsh weather history it had already endured. Says Kreshtool, "The last thing we needed at this point, late in the construction schedule, was to go back and re-spray or patch fireproofing work that had already been done. Our schedule simply wouldn't allow it." But as the city of Baltimore recovered from nature's latest fury, all were delighted to find that the BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II fire protection had weathered the storm with flying colors!

After 15 months, sections of the Convention Center could still be found where BLAZE-SHIELD II / Type II was applied and still exposed. These areas had endured a drought, a blizzard, and the remnants of a hurricane, with no degradation to the BLAZE-SHIELD II's / Type II's fire performance capability. This is the true face of dry-mix inorganic fire protection materials that are UL "investigated for exterior use" and one of the major reasons why the product is more popular than ever.

Proof positive that properly installed Isolatek International fire proofing products are tough, durable, and will be in-place when you really need them.

800.631.9600 or + 1 973.347.1200

technical@isolatek.com | technical-international@isolatek.com

www.isolatek.com



ISOLATEK INTERNATIONAL® provides passive fireproofing materials under the CAFCO® and FENDOLITE® trademark throughout the Americas and under the ISOLATEK® trademark throughout the world.

WE SAVE LIVES®

