

## Chicago's Willis Tower Fireproofing an Iconic Landmark

The Willis Tower, sometimes still referred to by its original moniker, the Sears Tower, has been an iconic landmark on Chicago's skyline for decades. At its completion in 1974, it was the tallest building in the world and held this distinction for almost 25 years. Today, the Willis Tower is the second tallest structure in the United States. With more than one million visitors a year, it is Chicago's most popular tourist attraction.

In 1970, Isolatek International, a pioneer in passive fireproofing technology, introduced the first asbestos-free sprayed mineral fiber fireproofing material to the steel construction industry. Its spray application, utilizing pole guns, virtually eliminated the need for scaffolding when fireproofing commercial, steel framed structures. The original Sears Tower, a 110 story steel frame skyscraper, was protected with Isolatek's CAFCO<sup>®</sup> BLAZE-SHIELD<sup>®</sup> / ISOLATEK<sup>®</sup> Type. CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD / ISOLATEK Type was a strong and resilient fireproofing option designed primarily for protecting steel columns, beams and floors in commercial buildings. Today, Isolatek continues to meet industry demand in high-rise steel construction with its CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD / ISOLATEK Type Series of Applied Fireproofing products. Its newest product offering, CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD II HS / ISOLATEK Type II HS is the industry's first commercial density dry mix fireproofing product formulated to satisfy the International Building Code (IBC) minimum bond strength requirement for high-rise buildings up to 420 ft. in height. Included in Isolatek's family of Medium Density SFRMs is CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD HP / ISOLATEK Type HP. CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD HP / ISOLATEK Type HP also satisfies the IBC minimum bond strength requirement for buildings up to 420 ft. in height. Its durable surface allows for application in parking garages, mechanical rooms, and elevator shafts while also withstanding exposure to severe weather conditions for prolonged periods of time during the construction cycle. For more than forty years, Isolatek's CAFCO BLAZE-SHIELD / ISOLATEK Type products have been the most widely specified Dry Mix SFRMs in the world.



Originally built to meet the needs of a single tenant, the Sears Tower was constructed as a utilitarian work environment. To attract tenants and compete with newer buildings, The Blackstone Group announced a \$500 million renovation and expansion project for the Willis Tower. This is the building's first significant modernization in 43 years, and the hope is to transform this iconic landmark into a dynamic and inviting addition to the landscape. With completion expected in 2019, the redevelopment plans include a multi level annex that will encompass the tower's base, and adds more than 300,000 square feet of new retail outlets, dining and entertainment venues. On top of the newly added space will be a 30,000 square-foot outdoor roof deck and landscaped garden with a skylight that allows visitors to look down upon a 5 story winter garden. There are also plans to remodel the tower's Sky deck on the 103rd floor.



In the late 1990's, Isolatek International introduced its first intumescent fireproofing offering under the brand name CAFCO® SprayFilm®/ ISOLATEK Type WB. The Company's later release of CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5 in 2010, was a technological breakthrough in water-based intumescent technology, and today, CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5 remains the leading Intumescent Fire Resistive Material (IFRM) in the commercial construction market. CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5 provides a long lasting, durable surface and can be covered with a wide variety of topcoat finishes and colors that blend with other project design elements and allows designers the flexibility to showcase exposed structural steel in interior open spaces with high foot traffic and activity. The new multistory glass structure surrounding the base of Willis Tower is supported by an abundance of exposed structural steel framework. To preserve the architectural aesthetic style of the newly added annex, ISOLATEK® Recognized Applicator, Midwest Fireproofing, will spray over 2,000 pails of CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5. CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5 provides significant advantages as a fire protection solution for project teams in the fireproofing industry. For installers, CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5 maximizes jobsite productivity as it requires lower thicknesses than other thin film water-based intumescent coatings on the market. Its thickness advantages result in the entire job being completed in less time.

Touted as one of the largest sustainable modernization projects in the world, the Willis Tower design team hopes to obtain LEED Platinum Building certification upon completion. Isolatek is devoted to developing sustainable, environmentally conscious products. The majority of Isolatek International's fireproofing products contribute towards LEED "green building" certification & are labeled Red List Free with the International Living Future Institute's Declare Program. With its Zero VOC formulation and product attributes that require less material and produce less waste and energy to manufacture, ship and install, CAFCO SprayFilm WB 5 / ISOLATEK Type WB 5 provides significant credits towards LEED Certification.

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Brand

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

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