DETAILS OF INTERESTING CLAIM

Type of Insurance:

Machinery Breakdown

Description of damaged item:

Electric solenoid coil and consequential loss of chicks in chicken hatchery.

Cause of Loss:

Coil shorted to ground causing the short circuit and a breaker trip. With the lack of electricity, the dampers failed to activate the temperature increased and oxygen levels dropped suffocating the emerging chicks.

Claim Cost

Approx $10,000 CDN including the loss of 8,000 chicks

Description of Incident and Loss Prevention Measures initiated:

Poultry Co-Operative that supplies fertilized eggs to the hatchery and raises the chicks after hatching until they are ready for processing.

There are (6) incubators and (6) hatchers. The eggs are first incubated to near the hatching time in climate controlled incubators.

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The eggs are then moved from the incubators to the hatchers where the chicks emerge from the shell. This is a climate controlled environment with close tolerance temperature and humidity controls. Both the incubators and hatchers are fitted with a three condition central station monitored alarm activation sensors. High temperature, Low temperature and power failure.

The systems also have local alarms, 24 / 7 chart recording and manual monitoring log book which is recorded three times per day during business hours and every 18 hours during none operation hours. (weekends and holidays)

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Climate in the devices is controlled by inlet and outlet dampers that either increase or decrease air flow.

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The dampers are operated by electric solenoid coils that actuate upon sensor readings to open or close dampers. We were advised that there are a total of 40 solenoid coils in total.

At 2:56 A.M. June 12, a central station alarm was received indicating that a high temperature was sensed. The alarm log report was witnessed. Less than 1 minute later an all clear signal was issued indicating that the temperature had returned to tolerance.

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As required the alarm company contacted an employee to advise of the alarm and that an all clear signal had been received during the conversation with the employee.

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18 minutes later 3:14 a second high temperature alarm was received. This signal remained activated. The damage had been done by this point.

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When the employee arrived on site many of the chicks emerging from the shell had expired and others were dazed.

The live chicks were manually removed and immediately shipped to a farm for further observation and monitoring.

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(6) live & (6) expired chicks were sent to the animal services lab for testing and monitoring. A full report should be completed in seven days. It is possible that the surviving birds may have suffered brain damage and they may not eat or function properly.

Starvation time for the chicks is seven days.

Investigation of the incident by the company's electrician found that one of the circuit breakers that controls both inlet and outlet dampers on one of the hatchers had tripped. It was further found that the electric solenoid coil had shorted to ground causing the short circuit and tripped breaker.

When the dampers failed to activate the temperature increased and oxygen levels dropped suffocating the emerging chicks. When a number expired the oxygen demand dropped and the supply may have been sufficient for the surviving birds.