

DETAILS OF INTERESTING CLAIM

Type of Insurance:

Machinery Breakdown

Description of damaged item:

Fordrinier paper machine consisting of (35) cast iron steam rolls 36" x 84" approx 3/4 " thick circa 1920.

Cause of Loss:

Explosion of steam roll

Claim Cost

\$500,000 CDN

Description of Incident and Loss Prevention Measures initiated:

During the production process a small hole appeared with recurring accuracy on the surface of the paper. It was suspected that a pin hole had developed in one of the rolls. The Chief Engineer decided to run the machine in a test mode to detect which roll was affected and where the pin hole might be. Without the introduction of paper being passed over the rolls to absorb the heat the pressure soon built up to 50 psi from a normal attainable working pressure of 25 psi. The Safety Valve was set at 50 psi. The roll violently exploded. Fortunately no one was injured, however the paper machine was wrecked.

Outline the interesting or unusual aspects of this claim or problems experienced during settlement:

- The roll should have been isolated and subjected to a hydrostatic test (not steam) to detect where it was leaking and more than likely would have failed, however the catastrophic damage would have been avoided and there would be no temporary lay offs at the plant.
- The policy contained a testing exclusion but it was determined that what the insured was doing was not an official test but the machine was in fact being operated under normal pressures.
- How often do we inspect a boiler or a pressure vessel while in the operational mode and assuming that since it is working below a safety valve setting it is being safely operated?
- The vessels had inspection ports, the inspector verbally suggested they look inside a random selection during the next outage. Given the age of the machine however, all the vessels should be operated at a reduced MAWP.

- It was determined that when this vessel was manufactured it was not concentric and had weights installed to balance it. The casting revealed two thicknesses of metal however while this did not cause the accident it did reveal serious misgivings on the structure of the vessel.

