

Fike's PROINERT2 System Meets Requirements And Protects Melvin Weaver & Sons' Warehouse In Pennsylvania

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Fike®

Established in 1975, Melvin Weaver & Sons has provided crop protection products for the agriculture industry for over 40 years. The company's steady growth throughout these years generated the need for additional space at their Lancaster, Pennsylvania based facility. In summer 2014, Melvin Weaver began planning the construction of a 16,800-square-foot addition to its warehouse.

Having a long-time relationship with Kint Fire Protection, Melvin Weaver turned to Kint to explore fire suppression system options for its new warehouse. Kint initially recommended a dry chemical system solution similar to the one being utilized in Melvin Weaver's existing warehouse.

However, after learning the existing system had previously malfunctioned, causing a discharge with tremendous clean-up costs and significant down-time, Kint began brainstorming.

Reliable, Customizable Fire Suppression Agent

We wanted to provide our customer with a state-of-the-art system and installation"

Kint in-house engineer, Frank Hetherington, suggested the Fike PROINERT2 system. Once design and engineering was completed, Todd Van Wagner, Senior Solutions Analyst at Kint Fire Protection presented the solution to Linford Weaver, partner & son of Melvin Weaver.

"We immediately began pre-fabricating the suppression nozzle pods so we could send them, along with all exposed pipe and fittings for painting," stated Todd Van Wagner of Kint Fire Protection. *"From the beginning, we wanted to provide our customer with a state-of-the-art system and installation that would serve as a showcase of Kint's design and installation capabilities, as well as demonstrate the customers' commitment to fire safety at their facility."*

PROINERT2 Project Protects Multiple Spaces

This substantial PROINERT2 project included 185 cylinders. And with Melvin Weaver's business continuing to grow, the system can easily be modified for future expansion. In fact, another impressive feature of the PROINERT2 system is while it is designed to protect the overall space, it's quite simple to individually protect any number of smaller spaces within it by using selector valves allow the system to direct suppression to only the spaces where it's needed.

"We take pride in providing our customers with the latest in technology and design," continued Todd Van Wagner. *"Melvin Weaver stores their product up to 20 feet high, so we had to come up with a design that would not interfere with the storing or moving of their product, but still cover the entire space."*

Kint Fire Protection did this by designing and pre-fabricating custom nozzle pods to accommodate the different nozzle designs required for the space below 16 feet and the space above 16 feet. Once all nozzle pods were built, painted and placed, Kint filled in with the remaining pipe, detection, audio visuals and manual pull stations. Completed in April 2015, this

project took approximately 160 hours of engineering time and 5 weeks of installation.

Meeting Local AHJ Requirements

An advantage of the PROINERT2 system is it utilizes argon and nitrogen (free to replace)

“We received a state-of-the-art system that meets local AHJ requirements,” explained Linford Weaver, “And in the unlikely event of a discharge, our business will not be impeded with significant down-time or clean-up costs.” He continued, “Despite PROINERT2 being more expensive to install, FPGCS-002 over a 12-year period it’s actually quite a savings.”

Another advantage of the PROINERT2 system is it utilizes argon and nitrogen (free to replace), so the only costs are labor and shipping of any replacement cylinders.

Steve Tierney, Fike Corporation regional manager stated, *“PROINERT2 was a logical solution to Melvin Weaver’s problem as it prevents any down-time or costs to clean up any future potential discharges, saving Kint’s client money in the long run.”*

Success Factors Of The System

- Half the maintenance cost of dry chemical systems.
- No cleanup costs, no down time, no loss of product in event of discharge.
- Flexible system design and installation with ease of modification.
- Suppression gas storage cylinders are all stored together at one location on ground-level, avoiding the storage space and weight capacity issues common with systems that require the cylinders be located very close to the area being protected.
- Simple semi-annual inspections.
- Environmentally friendly.
- Recharge free for gas, only cost is labor.

- ▀ Safety delay to protect workers.

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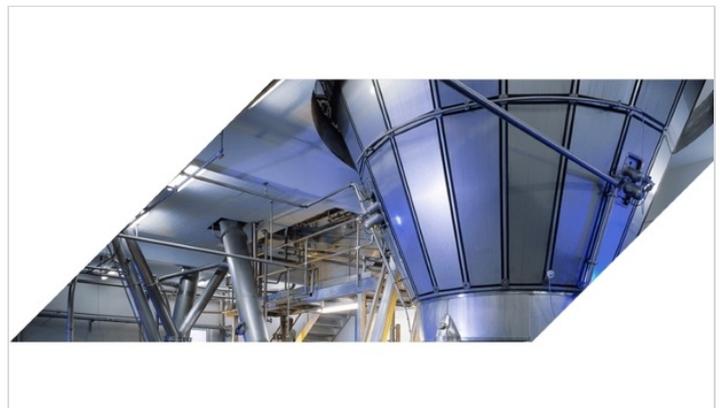
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