VAPORTEK CASE STUDY

Number 785



VaporShark Provides Speedy Relief From Odors After High-Rise Explosion and Fire

The VaporShark played an important role in safely and quickly clearing the air of bad odors!

ONTARIO, CANADA

A Sunday morning explosion in July that rattled a 22-story apartment building caused extensive damage to the basement levels of the building, electrical room and parking garage.

No serious injuries were reported and officials worked quickly to provide crucial support services to the 900 displaced tenants, many of whom were forced to flee without wallets, identification or personal belongings.

The Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal determined that damage to the electrical room was severe and it would take a few weeks to restore power and water to the building. They also determined that further testing of air quality was necessary to ensure it was safe for residents to re-enter their apartments briefly to retrieve essential items.

As is normal after any fire, soot and odors can irritate the lungs or worsen the symptoms of people with respiratory conditions such as asthma, particularly with physical exertion such as climbing stairs.

An environmental cleaning company was contracted to clean the hallways and stairwells to reduce the soot before tenants could re-enter the building. The restoration contractors quickly set up eight VaporShark Industrial Odor Control Systems to eliminate the fuel and smoke odors from the electrical fire; however, another smell also quickly began to permeate the building. As a result of the failed HVAC and electrical systems, thawing and rotting food in the refrigerators and freezers of the 300 apartment units produced an additional serious odor issue. Mark Robertson, Master Distributor in Canada, placed an urgent call to Vaportek, requesting immediate shipment of 36 more VaporShark units to the site.

Meanwhile, cleaning efforts included using Vaportek's ECOZ water-soluble odor neutralizer concentrate in an Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) fogger. ECOZ was sprayed into the apartments to allow crews to suppress odors long enough to begin removal of all the refrigeration units, which Toronto Public Health ordered to be destroyed due to health hazards caused by the extended power outage.

Just three days after the explosion, Toronto Public Health took samples of air and soot throughout the building. "The results indicate that there are no unusual hazardous substances in the building as a result of the fire," said the Toronto Medical Officer of Health. Residents were allowed to return for a brief period of time to remove some belongings.

The ECOZ and VaporSharks both played major roles in making the environment safe and agreeable for the tenants to re-enter so quickly, and for the contractors to perform their restoration work. The VaporShark's powerful natural essential oil "dry vapor" permanently eliminates odors through moleculepairing technology. Providing an easy-touse, environmentally preferable alternative to ozone generators and thermal foggers, the VaporShark treats the atmosphere, contents and structure simultaneously.

In addition to cleaning up soot and smoke, the electrical, hydro and safety systems all had to be restored in order for tenants to permanently move back in.

"In all, 44 VaporSharks ran around the clock for three weeks straight while workers toiled to return the 300 apartments to a state of normalcy," said Robertson.





Photo by Nikolay Niagolov

Residents were displaced until structural engineers declared the extensively damaged building safe.