

AREPA

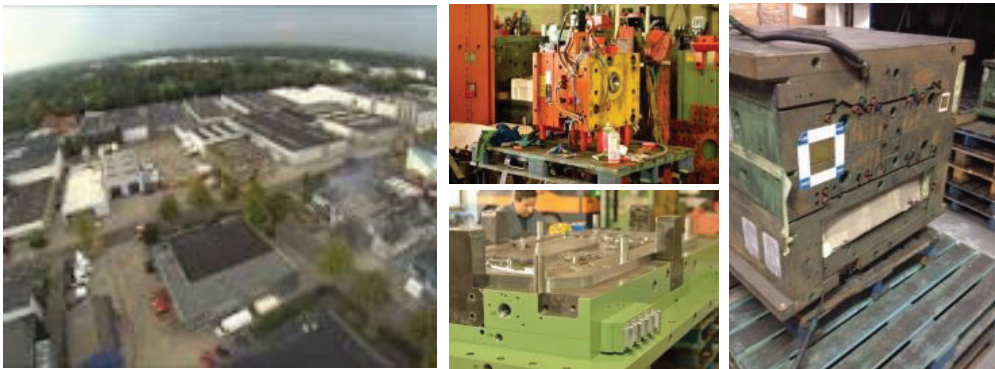
PROMENS

Case Study

INCIDENT

For suppliers to the automotive industry, adhering to established production schedules is a top priority. Delays in production result in business interruption expense, lost revenue, missed growth opportunities and could even result in lost contracts for future business.

Promens is a global leader in the design and engineering of plastic products with 188 operations in over 30 countries. They create packaging for pharmaceutical, household and industrial chemicals, as well as components for electronics and automotive. As a result of an extensive fire at one of Promen's European locations, hundreds of highly specialized and expensive plastic molds were severely damaged. The facility, in Zevenaar, the Netherlands, produced over 900 unique plastic products for clients in the automotive industry. The fire damaged 550 molds at the facility, which were owned by Promen's customers.



Highlights

The plastic molds were damaged when a fire in a nearby warehouse, used for storing raw materials, colorants and semi-finished products, spread to the adjacent area. First responders initially focused fire-fighting efforts on the area storing raw materials where the fire had started, but after facility managers arrived, the focus was shifted to control the fire that had spread in the mold storage area. The decision was made to release the fire's heat by removing a sidewall, as large amounts of water from fire hoses would have resulted in more damage and loss due to potential corrosion. AREPA teams arrived on scene the following morning to address damages to the molds and develop an action plan to prevent further damages as restoration options were reviewed.

CHALLENGES & LOGISTICS

This project was especially challenging because the affected warehouse possessed extremely high levels of humidity and affected products needed to be quickly moved to prevent the onset of additional contamination. In addition, initial examinations of the molds indicated that the fire had only damaged portions of each product. The actual molds showed no damage, but surrounding critical components including the electrical connections, cooling channels and hydraulic tubes were drastically affected by the fire. Every hour that the molds were not in use, production schedules fell further behind so the decision was made to undertake all repair activities on-site at Promens.

OUTCOME

AREPA project managers were integral advisors to Promens throughout this entire process. Our team assisted with converting an entire production hall in Zevenaar into an advanced toolmaker's shop so that the molds could be inspected, restored and repaired. Crane gantries, a tank line and workplaces for toolmakers were installed to expedite the recovery process. Upon completion of the project, all by one of the 550 damaged molds was completely restored.

“AREPA played an integral role in our recovery from this fire. Of course, the fire caused significant damage, but the potential loss could have been even more far-reaching. Thanks to the wide and extensive expertise of AREPA, the damages were quickly assessed and further deterioration was prevented. At the end of the day, none of our customers encountered any difficulties.”

- Richard Diepeveen, Sales & Strategy Director