



Rebuilding with Confidence

Convention Center Collapse

The February 5 collapse of a steel beam at the four-year-old David L. Lawrence Convention Center caught everyone off guard. No one was hurt and damage was limited to a 60x30 ft. bay in the second floor loading dock. Dan Jones, Senior Consultant with G.S. Jones, along with Consultant John DiMenno, provided assistance in establishing the cost, and work required to repair the facility for the primary insurance carrier for the Convention Center. "It's quite an involved project, including not only the repairs in the area of collapse but also extensive work in the areas of the building expansion system, and the water feature below. Evaluation of these areas will ensure the safety, functional and structural integrity of the Center," stated Mr. Jones.

Management is hoping to reopen for business mid-March and will be hosting the Home and Garden Show as its first Event.

Documents Saved

Recently, G.S. Jones responded to a call for an office fire. The structure had significant smoke and water damage. The contents were packed, removed, and taken to the warehouse to be cleaned. Specifically, 300 boxes of documents were removed in an attempt to dry and salvage. Andrea Smarsh, Contents Supervisor, had technicians carefully place each document in a refrigerated trailer. By doing this, mold and mildew could not form on the documents before being dried out. Each document was then carefully removed from the pod and dried, using Restorative Drying Techniques. Care was taken so that the documents would not be damaged by tearing due to moisture. Within two months every document was dried and returned to the owner.

Did You Know??

- Bank robber John Dillinger played professional baseball.
- White Out was invented by the mother of Mike Nesmith (Formerly of the Monkees)
- Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.
- Studies show that if a cat falls off the seventh floor of a building it has about thirty percent less chance of surviving than a cat that falls off the twentieth floor. It supposedly takes about eight floors for the cat to realize what is occurring, relax, and correct itself.

Historic Hotel Fire



On October 15, 2006, fire struck a historical hotel in Washington County. The ten story building was used as apartments, offices and an assisted living facility. The hotel also had three ballrooms, a lounge/bar, and a restaurant open to outside traffic.

Three residents were treated for smoke inhalation and a city police officer was seriously injured when he fell from a seventh floor window trying to get out of the smoked filled Hotel. The fire displaced 89 people living in the hotel, including 36 residents from an assisted living facility. The fire occurred in the area of mechanical equipment on the second floor flat roof.

G.S. Jones immediately responded with a team, following a call from the building owner to handle emergencies and to assess damages. There was heavy fire damage to the second, third and fourth floors. Heavy smoke damage was on all ten floors. The main ballroom sustained water, smoke and fire damage.

After meeting with the owner, a scope of damage, and necessary repairs were evaluated and a time line set. Residents needed to return to their apartments and the assisted living facility as soon as possible. Businesses needed to be operating and the hotel ballroom and restaurant opened. A wedding reception was scheduled for the main ballroom six days after the fire.

A plan of action was set and the G.S. Jones team immediately began their work. Windows were boarded up and a temporary roof was

installed to cover gaping holes left by the fire. The third and fourth floor was totally gutted. A trash chute was installed from these floors to remove debris from each room. All duct work was cleaned of soot and debris throughout the hotel.

Crews worked from 6pm Sunday evening until 6am the following morning, in order to have the walk-in café and restaurant open for breakfast. The kitchen and mechanical appliances were cleaned and the dining room was cleaned of smoke and water damage. The restaurant was reopened 15 hours after the fire.

The second floor was occupied by a learning center, where computers were used daily by students. All computers were cleaned on a rotating basis and returned in working order. Students only missed one day of class. Repairs made to the main ballroom in six days saved the owner from canceling the wedding reception, duress to the wedding party and subsequent bad publicity.

Also included in repairs were two ballrooms, Main lobby, lounge/bar, six floors of hotel rooms and apartments. The Oval Room where John F. Kennedy delivered a campaign speech was cleaned and restored to its original state.

The use of 100 air movers and 40 dehumidifiers helped to dry out the building. By staffing the hotel with approximately 70 to 135 workers, daily, G.S. Jones was able to provide emergency services as well as restoration in a narrow time frame. This resulted in great savings for the insurance company and customer satisfaction.

New Faces



Larry Sobieralski has joined the team at G.S. Jones as Project Manager. Sobie works with the estimators and oversees project completion in a timely manner with customer satisfaction.



Steve Zeppelin is our newest consultant. He works with Dan Jones and John DiMenno. Steve evaluates damage and provides repair costs estimates. As a building damage consultant, Steve will travel throughout the U.S.



Andrea Smarsh has joined the warehouse team as Contents Supervisor. Andrea oversees the inventory, pack out, restorative cleaning, and redelivery of all contents in the warehouse, as well as at the job site.



Elle Smarsh is a Contents Cleaning Technician. She and her team is responsible for cleaning and packing all contents.



Matt Poole has moved from Project Manager to Estimator. Matt will take his experience as Project Manager, to begin estimating building damage costs.

Gymnasium Floor Saved



G.S. Jones received a call from an Insurance broker to assist a local high school. During gym class a ball hit a sprinkler head, causing it to break. Before the water could be shutoff, water had saturated the wood gym floor and a wood shop class below the gym.

The first priority was to mitigate damage to the gym floor. The proper assessment of damage was crucial. An infrared camera was utilized to determine that water had become trapped between the gym floor and concrete slab, and had spread to ¾'s of the area under the wood flooring.

The gym floor had just been refinished in January 2007, as part of a larger renovation project to the school. Next, floor boards were removed under the

bleachers to determine the construction of the floor. This spot was selected so that it would not be as noticeable by students and faculty.

Being that there was space between the concrete and flooring, the G.S. Jones team opted to dry the gym floor, rather than replacing the entire floor.

Turbo dryers were placed at opposite sides of the gym where floor boards had been removed. The dryers forced air flow between the concrete and floor boards. A tent was constructed over 75% of the floor where water was trapped beneath the flooring and dehumidifiers were placed inside. Turbo dryers were used to create the "floating" effect of the tarp. All water would be extracted through the dehumidifiers.

Name Trivia

Haagen Dazs

Contrary to common belief, the name is not European; it is simply 2 made-up words meant to look European to American eyes.

Pepsi

Pepsi derives its name from (treatment of dyspepsia), an intestinal ailment.

Starbucks

Named after Starbuck, a character in Herman Melville's whaling novel, Moby-Dick.

Xerox

The inventor, Chester Carlson, named his product trying to say "dry" (as it was dry copying, markedly different from the then prevailing wet copy). The Greek root "xer" means dry.



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