



# Double Strike for Firetrace

**Double success for Firetrace automatic suppression systems**

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## Going...going...gone.

Lightning never strikes twice !

But in the case of the Favor Parker group it certainly did last week.

### Strike one...

The on site engineers were first alerted last week when the Firetrace panel went into alarm . On investigation of the offending switchgear, it was discovered that a 200 Amp circuit breaker had faulted causing a fire within one of the Grinder control panels.

Luckily the Firetrace carbon dioxide system installed within this panel had quickly detected the incident, and this fire was already out.

The Favor parker mill in Robertsbridge, Sussex had been fitted with ten Firetrace systems in 2003. The systems were all linked to an addressable Fire Alarm panel and configured to identify their various locations within the mill.

The offending grinder panel was fitted with a Firetrace 2 Kg ,Direct / Indirect system.

Due to the unique sensing properties of the Firetrace tubing ,the fire was detected and extinguished so quickly that no other components were damaged.

Plant manager, Philip Milton said "The system performed brilliantly. The damage to the panel was limited to the faulty breaker only. No other components were damaged and production was resumed within three days.

If this panel had not been protected by Firetrace the out come could have been disastrous".

Firetrace Limited attended site and replaced the system within the three day shut down.



*Above: Minimal damage to panel*

*Below: Close up of burst Firetrace tube*



### Strike two...

Two days following the re-instatement of the panel the Firetrace alarm was triggered by the same system again.

With no visible signs of a fire the on site engineers continued production and placed a call to Firetrace requesting an attendance to repair the leaking system.

On arrival the Firetrace engineer discovered that a second fault had occurred within the panel causing the wiring to overheat.

Luckily the Firetrace tubing had again detected the danger and not only flooded the panel .....



*Above: Burst tube following overheated cable*



*Left: Melted cables removed from panel*

with Carbon dioxide but also raised the alarm.

The Firetrace unique method of detection had this time limited the damage to only a few wires. These were quickly replaced and the source of the problem was rectified.

The Firetrace system was also replaced and the panel was back on line the same day.

Philip Milton said "Firetrace responded quickly to what we all thought was a warranty claim. It turned out that the system had again saved the panel and alerted us to the problem.

Our safety department are aware of the systems performance and I am sure are considering Firetrace for our other sites".