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FACILITY PLANNING BY DARIO DIMARE



What's up? Hopefully nothing

As a continuation of our article on pressrooms in the June issue of *Newspapers & Technology*, we have decided to look up in the press hall at the ceiling. In essence, what we hope to see is nothing. The less there is above a press the better the design.

Some of the elements that are present in a typical ceiling include ceiling tiles, skylights, lights, air supply diffusers, air return diffusers, vents, sprinkler heads, speakers, emergency lights or alarms and other building support systems.

In addition to these designed elements, we often notice duct work, electrical conduits, control wiring, water lines, gas lines, paper dust collection ducts, ink piping, heating units, and one of the worst elements, press conveyors.

Why don't we want anything above the press? Because, it's above the press. Working on anything above the press other than the press itself can be a recipe for disaster. Dropping a ceiling tile, bulb, key, penny, nut, bolt, rag, or anything for that matter, in a printing couple can result in real printing headaches and a lot of lost time and money. Replacing a printing cylinder is expensive and time consuming.

Leaking skylights, sprinkler heads or water lines are damaging to the press and

hard to service over it. Ductwork builds up dirt and drops it in the press. And conveyors can drop full newspapers in the press or folder, which can cause damage.

People who are not trained in the operations and sensitivity of a press are not aware of the potential damage that can be caused in these situations. There was a situation at a large metropolitan newspaper in the east, where an uninformed electrician actually used a printing couple to bend his conduit for some of the electrical wiring around a press.

He claimed he didn't know it would damage the press. This is just one example of what can happen when an untrained person works around a press. Therefore, it is much easier to incorporate the "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" principal.

The ounce of prevention in designing a press room ceiling is very simple. There is "nothing" to it, meaning there should be nothing above the press. All of the support systems can be located just outside of the area above the press.

Lights and diffusers can be wall-mounted or located above the press aisles. Sprinkler heads can occur just outside the area above the press. The piping and ductwork can be located along the walls, preferably outside of the press room. If a pipe or length of ductwork absolutely must cross

over the press, then at least try to keep the joints or connecting point from being located over the press because this is where the leaks most likely will occur.

Any elements that can be concealed or located outside of the press room should be, so that they do not gather paper dust and ink mist. This prevents large pieces of dirt from falling on the press and also makes the press room much easier to keep clean.

There are many other issues to consider in the press room that will affect the ceiling, such as air flow, rigging rails versus maintenance rails, future units former boards or angle bar nests. Dario Designs will discuss these subjects in future issues.

As one can see there is a lot to consider in designing a press ceiling. If you can remember anything about the design of a press room ceiling, remember "nothing".▲

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