

B&A

the forensic engineer

DEFECTIVE POLE-TOP TRANSFORMER CAUSES TOTAL FIRE LOSS

Brosz and Associates has successfully settled a large fire loss involving transformer failures leading to loss of life and destruction of property.

A new oil filled 75KVA transformer was part of a transformer bank located in a midwestern city and serving two industrial plants. One of the plants had recently undergone an upgrade to its electrical service. The transformer in question was brand new and was being energized for the first time. As a result of a manufacturing defect, the defective paper insulation on the primary lead came into contact with the internal grounded transformer core. This resulted in an arcing ground fault that caused a gas plasma bubble to form just beneath the surface of the oil. When the bubble erupted, a conductive path was established between the 12470 volt and 240 volt terminals and the resulting arc and overvoltage shorted the plant's 240 volt electrical system, shorting some receptacles and switches throughout the plant and resulting in a fire that destroyed the entire building.

Despite the best efforts of other engineers and a cause and origin expert, the matter had been stalled for some time. Due to the experience of the Brosz engineers, we were able to thoroughly analyze the available evidence and research additional evidence to establish a cogent theory as to the failure of the transformer. After our deposition, settlement discussions ensued, and resulted in a very favorable conclusion for our client.

For more information, contact Brosz and Associates at 905-472-6660 or visit our website at www.expertwitness-electric.com.

BROSZ AND ASSOCIATES - FORENSIC SERVICES/LOSS CONTROL GROUP
Visit our website at www.brosz.net and view our photo and video library covering over 4900 cases over the last 35 years.