



Explosion Captured on PowerLogic® System Yields \$4M



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Thanks to a community college's PowerLogic® system, a sudden electrical explosion at the nearby courthouse was captured in a waveform and used as part of the courthouse's documentation to collect \$4M in insurance claims.

Courthouse staff members knew something was amiss. On this particular Sunday morning, lights began flickering throughout the facility, which houses the county courts as well as the county jail.

Transformers that were fed by 32kV feeders from the local utility were located in the basement of the courthouse. Concerned, the electrical maintenance manager went to assess the situation. After not seeing any problems, he began to go back upstairs when a violent explosion shook the facility.

The explosion instantly disintegrated all 32kV feeders that were comprised of (10) 500 MCM cables. A concrete brick wall dividing the room crumbled, leaving I-beams for the floor above completely mangled. Prisoners in the jail were suddenly thrown from their bunks and officers were violently knocked from their chairs throughout the building. The fire department raced to the scene to put out the fire. Had the explosion occurred during the work week, the maintenance director whose office was just above the explosion site would most likely have perished.

Once things began to settle down, prisoners were moved so repairs could begin. The maintenance technician was in charge of trying to figure out exactly what had happened so the county could settle with the insurance company. He remembered that a friend at community college, which is several miles from the courthouse, had a PowerLogic® system. He phoned the friend in hopes that she had been able to record the event. Shortly, he received a waveform capture that he was able to use as documentation to justify the collection of a \$4M claim. Payment was received in full.



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The county courthouse employees and prisoners who were on site that Sunday were certainly very fortunate to have survived such an explosion. Considering the chaos that the blast had caused, a team was put in place to create a new system for the courthouse. Members of Square D/Schneider Electric, worked very closely with the maintenance technician and the local electric company to install new electrical fixtures. This is an example waveform capture not actual waveform from community college. for the customer, providing expertise and completing the entire repairs with Square D® equipment. Convinced of their value, the customer specified System Manager along with two PowerLogic® Circuit Monitors in the equipment so that incoming feeds could be easily monitored and electrical disruptions immediately identified. Had a system like this been in place before the explosion, precautionary measures could have been taken that may very well have prevented it.

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