

The Herald

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Plant's spark detection system saves the day

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From Local Sources

JASPER — Units of the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department responded at 11:12 a.m. Thursday to the report of a possible fire in the dust collection system at Jasper Desk Co., 501 E. Sixth St.

Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang said someone had been using a ripsaw and small pieces of veneer and wood became jammed at the entrance to the plant's dust collection system.

That debris overheated and caught fire but the plant's Flamex spark detection and extinguishing system detected the problem, activated and sprayed water in the piping before flames and sparks could make it to a sawdust bin.

"As soon as (the Flamex system) sees something hot, it will mist out water at it to prevent the sawdust from getting to the bin on fire," Hochgesang said. "It worked the way it was supposed to."

If the Flamex had not been present, Hochgesang said, the fire would have made it to the bin, necessitating the replacement of filter elements there. Cleaning the bin would also have taken time.

"This definitely saved them a good day's production, probably," the chief said.

Firefighters cleared the ripsaw blockage and removed smoke from the section of piping.

There was no damage.

Four trucks and 30 firefighters were on the scene for an hour.