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Protection of telecommunication buildings from fire, 2001



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In a telephone building, the losses from damages caused by fire not only affect the persons and property directly involved in the calamity, but are felt throughout the population due to the effects of the service breakdown and the consequent loss of earnings from the service provider point of view. Moreover, the amount of information and services available to the customers is so high, nowadays, that equipments, buildings, infrastructures and installations need to be protected from damages due to calamities, including fire. This handbook is specific for the prevention of damage and the protection of telecommunication buildings from fire.

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Protection of telecommunication buildings from fire, 2001

This handbook is specific for the prevention of damage and the protection of telecommunication buildings from fire.

World statistics relating to losses from damage caused by calamities such as earthquakes, floods and other risks of a catastrophic nature show that one of the highest percentages for losses relates to the consequences of urban fires.

Another consequence to bear in mind is that most businesses affected by a major fire tend to collapse within a certain number of years (e.g. five years) following the event, due to factors such as loss of income, machinery replacement costs, market loss, loss of documentation and paralysis stemming from technological obsolescence.

It is noteworthy that, even if an insurance policy appears to cover fire risk adequately, the destructive effect in practice far exceeds direct losses.

In a telecommunication building especially, the losses in question not only affect the personnel and property directly involved in the calamity, but are felt throughout the private and business community due to the effects of the service breakdown.

It is essential that the equipment continues working after a disaster, that is why the fire extinction systems must be strategically designed and have good fire statistics in order to evolve in the application of extinction materials and techniques.

In order to minimize the risk of damage by suitable design characteristics of the cables, wire and plant installed, the following issues have been taken into account in this handbook:

- 1) precaution measures in indoor and outdoor installations;
- 2) building design and constructional features;
- 3) isolation material properties used in the construction of the cable and other elements in the network;
- 4) passive protection systems;
- 5) fire detection systems: signalling and alarms, monitoring and control;
- 6) fire extinction systems.

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