

Steam Leak / Outage

When operating a steam plant, there are many factors, which determine the reliability and availability of a steam supply. Whether the steam is used to power a system or as a part of a process, mechanical engineers and power plant operators know that, in the majority of installations, management expects the system to run 24 hours per day throughout the year. Real-world conditions often make this impossible. Often, there is a need for a temporary steam plant to replace or augment the permanent system for one of the following reasons:

- Unplanned outages for emergency repair
- Planned outages for repair, maintenance or upgrades
- Increased capacity requirements to handle peak loads
- Testing of a new process or production run
- Research and development projects
- Delays in bringing new systems on line

Although management expects steam plants to operate without interruption, as well as to meet new and changing requirements, the likelihood that one of the above listed factors will affect any steam plant operation in one year's time is 100 percent! Furthermore, the probability that some part of a steam plant will cause an interruption in service at least once during any year is about 20 percent.

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Source

U-M Plant Operations

More Information

<http://www.plantops.umich.edu/>

Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness – Steam Leak/Outage

Contact Plant Operations (734) 647-2059 to report a problem or to have a building system check conducted to ensure all equipment is functional.

Establish a three deep system of personnel located at the building and provide training on how to recognize and properly react to a steam leak / outage

Determine how information on the steam leak / outage will be obtained and then delivered to the building occupants.

Unless an emergency exists, do not call 911.

Response – Steam Leak/Outage

If a steam leak occurs, use extreme caution when checking it to avoid any unnecessary (scalding) accidents

If the outage is extensive, activate your building incident response team / floor marshal system to ensure all persons in the building are aware of the situation

When the steam leak / outage is discovered contact Plant Operations (734) 647-2059 for response

If the leak is in an occupied space, such as an office or storage area, move items to prevent damage if safe to do so.

Recovery – Steam Leak/Outage

Contact the University Risk Management (734) 764-2200 so claims management and other insurance matters can be handled.

If mold or mildew is present, contact the University OSEH Industrial Hygiene (734) 647-1142 for assistance.