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# **Aerojet Solid Propellant and Hybrid Fire Extinguishers for Halon Replacement**

**FAA International Fire and Cabin Safety Research Conference**

**October 29 – November 1, 2007**

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# Agenda

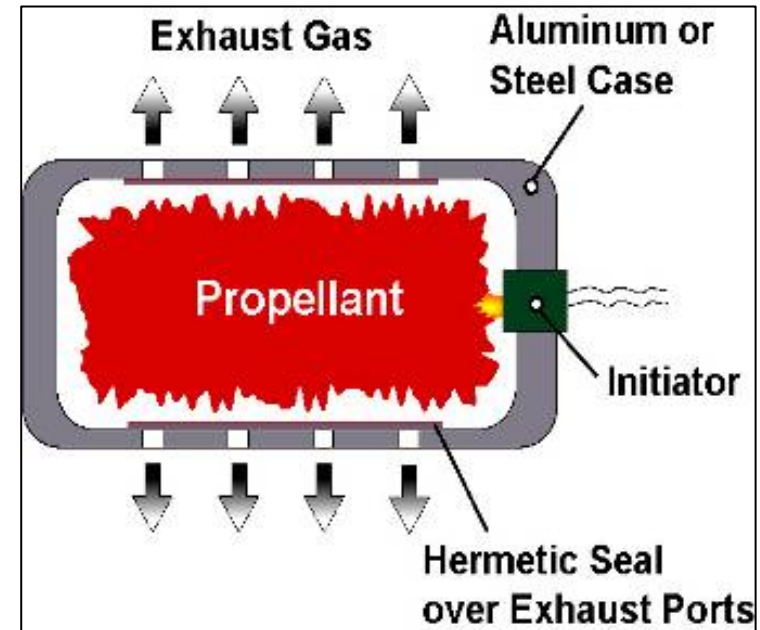


- **Solid Propellant Fire Extinguisher (SPFE) Technology**
- **Aircraft Dry Bay Fire Protection Systems**
- **Hybrid Fire Extinguisher (HFE) Technology**
- **Vehicle Fire Protection Systems**
- **Advantages of Chemically Active Propellant**
- **Applying HFEs to Aircraft Engine Nacelle Fire Protection**
- **Advantages of Using HFEs for Aircraft Fire Protection**
- **Conclusions**

# Solid Propellant Fire Extinguisher (SPFE)

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- Based on Automotive Airbag Technology
  - It's like your car airbag without the bag
- Solid Propellant Combustion Produces Non-toxic Gas Which Is Used as the Suppression Agent
  - Inert or chemically active propellant available
- Typical Applications:
  - Non-occupied spaces
  - Aircraft dry bays
  - Engine compartments



Quick Acting  
Safe – Not Pressurized Until Activated  
Environmentally Friendly  
Compact and Lightweight  
Maintenance Free  
Qualified And Proven In Military Aircraft

# Aircraft Dry Bay Fire Protection Systems



- Autonomous Suppression of Dry Bay Fires Resulting from Ballistic Penetration of Fuel Tanks and Hydraulic Lines
- SPFE Performance is Equivalent To Or Better Than Conventional Halon Systems
- SPFEs are Fully Qualified to Military Environments (MIL-D-21625)
- Aerojet Supplies Integrated Systems with Fire Suppression Electronics Including Optical Detectors and Controllers
  - Fire suppression system electronics integrate seamlessly with SPFEs
- Features and Benefits:
  - Compact and lightweight
  - Highly effective
  - Quick (<200 milliseconds)
  - No maintenance

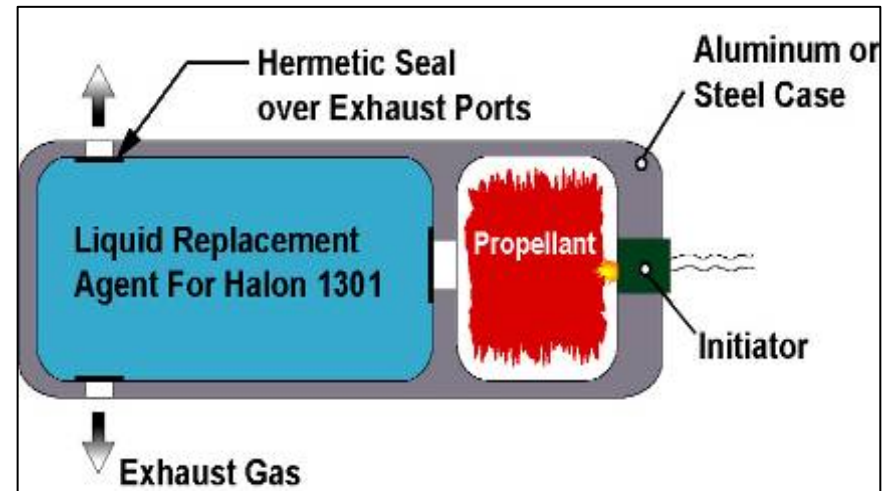


*Ballistically induced fire in the fuselage dry bay of an aircraft detected and extinguished < 200 milliseconds*

# Hybrid Fire Extinguisher (HFE)

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- Based on Automotive Airbag Technology
  - Solid propellant gas generator exhausts into tank rather than an airbag
- Solid Propellant Combustion Produces Gas which is Used to Pressurize and Discharge the Suppression Agent
- Can Match Fluid (agent) to Fire Threat
  - 3M™ Novec™ 1230
  - Water-Surfactant-Foam Blends
  - HFC-125, HFC-227ea, etc.
- Typical Applications:
  - Occupied spaces
  - Crew compartments
  - External vehicle fires



Quick Acting  
Safe – Not Pressurized Until Activated  
Environmentally Friendly  
Maintenance Free  
Can Be Mounted In Any Orientation  
Consistent Operation Over Wide Temperature Range  
Qualified And Proven In Military Ground Vehicles  
And Commercial Automobiles



# Vehicle Fire Protection Systems

- HFEs and SPFEs Provide Effective, Rapid, Automatic Protection Against a Variety of Vehicle Threats
- Crew Compartments
  - HFEs utilizing various agents such as 3M™ Novec™ 1230, HFC-227ea and water based solutions efficiently extinguish crew compartment fires
  - HFEs are well suited for occupied spaces
- Engine & Cargo Compartments
  - SPFEs effectively suppress fire threats in unoccupied engine compartments
  - HFEs and/or SPFEs are useful for vehicle cargo compartment fire protection
- External
  - HFEs dispensing water-surfactant-foam blends are effective against pool fires under or surrounding vehicle



*External Fire Threat*



*Suppressant Discharge*



*Egress Path Sustained*

# Advantages of Chemically Active Propellant

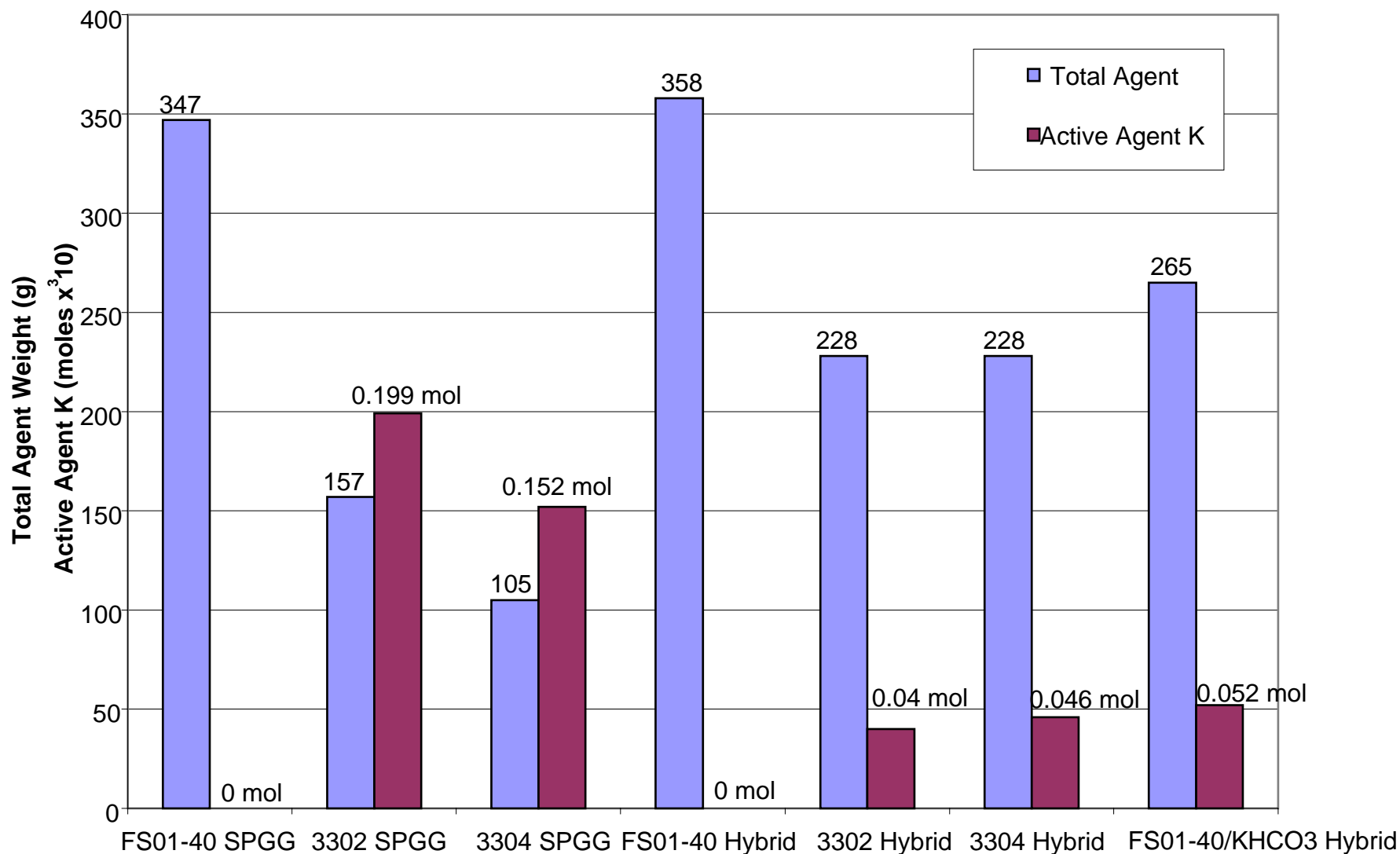
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- Inert SPFEs Extinguish Fires Mainly Through the Removal of Oxygen
  - SPFE combustion gases consist of nitrogen, water vapor and carbon dioxide
- Most Acceptable Non-Halon Fire Suppression Fluids are Inert
  - Inert HFES extinguish fires by removing oxygen and heat
- Chemically Active Propellant Can Be Used in SPFEs and HFES
  - Increases effectiveness by adding the interruption of the chemical chain reaction to the extinguishment mechanisms
  - Active chemicals present in gas are dispensed along with fluid
- Research Has Validated the Effectiveness of Even a Small Amount of Active Agent
  - Reduced required agent weight by 30-70%
- Chemically Active Propellant Results in Smaller System Weight with Equivalent Effectiveness

# Advantages of Chemically Active Propellant

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Source Fallis, S.; Reed, R.; McCormick, J. L.; Wilson, K. A.; Holland, G. F. Advanced Propellant/Additive Development for Fire Suppressing Gas Generators. Halon Options Technical Working Conference; 2001 April 24-26; Albuquerque, New Mexico. NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory. <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/866/HOTWC/proceedings.htm>.

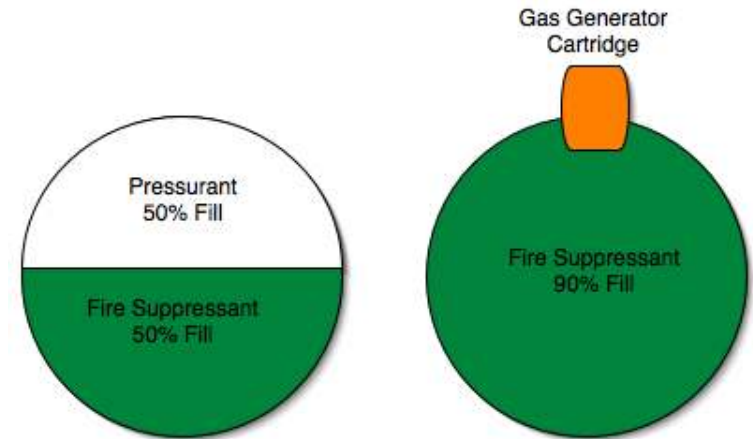
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# Applying HFEs to Aircraft Engine Nacelle Fire Protection

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- Typical Engine Nacelle Fire Suppression Systems Use Blown Down Bottles
- Engine Nacelle Systems Configured as HFEs Allow for Higher Density Fill
- Active Propellant Increases Effectiveness of Inert Fire Suppressant
- HFE Vaporizes and Dispenses Fire Suppressant at Cold Temperature
  - Aerojet has conducted cold temperature testing of system with 3M™ Novec™ 1230
  - HFEs offer consistent operation over a wide temperature range
- HFEs Offer a Green Solution that is Non-toxic
- HFEs Can Be Used With or Without Complicated Distribution Systems Depending Upon Aircraft Configuration



*HFEs offer more compact fire suppression*



*HFEs vaporize fire suppressant at cold temperature*

# Advantages of Using HFEs for Aircraft Fire Protection



- HFEs Vaporize and Dispense 3M™ Novec™ 1230
  - Zero ozone depletion potential
  - 5 day atmospheric lifetime
  - Global warming potential of 1
  - Safe - effective concentration much less than No Observable Adverse Effects Level (NOAEL)
- HFEs Offer a More Compact Design
  - Higher fill density
  - Active propellant can be utilized to reduce necessary amount of fluid
- HFEs Exhibit Consistent Operation Over a Wide Temperature Range
  - No need to compensate for dispersion difficulties at cold temperature
- HFEs Can Function in Any Orientation
  - Increases flexibility of system integration
- Solid Propellant Gas Generator (pressurization cartridge) Design Can be Tailored to Utilize Existing Bottle and Distribution Designs When Practical
  - Discharge pressure, duration and gas flow-rate are adjustable parameters

# Conclusions



- SPFEs are Effective Fire Extinguishers in Aircraft Dry Bay and Vehicle Engine Compartment Applications
- HFEs Have Been Proven Effective for Vehicle Fire Protection Applications
  - Crew Compartments
  - Engine Compartments
  - External Vehicle Fires
  - Rear Impact Collisions
- Active Propellant Increases the Effectiveness and Decreases the Total System Size and Weight for SPFEs and HFEs
- HFE Technology Can Be Used to Create Efficient Fire Suppression Systems for Aircraft
  - Effectively dispenses 3M™ Novec™ 1230
  - Compact design
  - Consistent operation over wide temperature range
  - Drop in replacement when practical