

Pulverized Fuel System Fires

Purpose

This bulletin advises owners and operators of the serious hazards of fires that may result in air-swept pulverized-fuel systems.

Problem

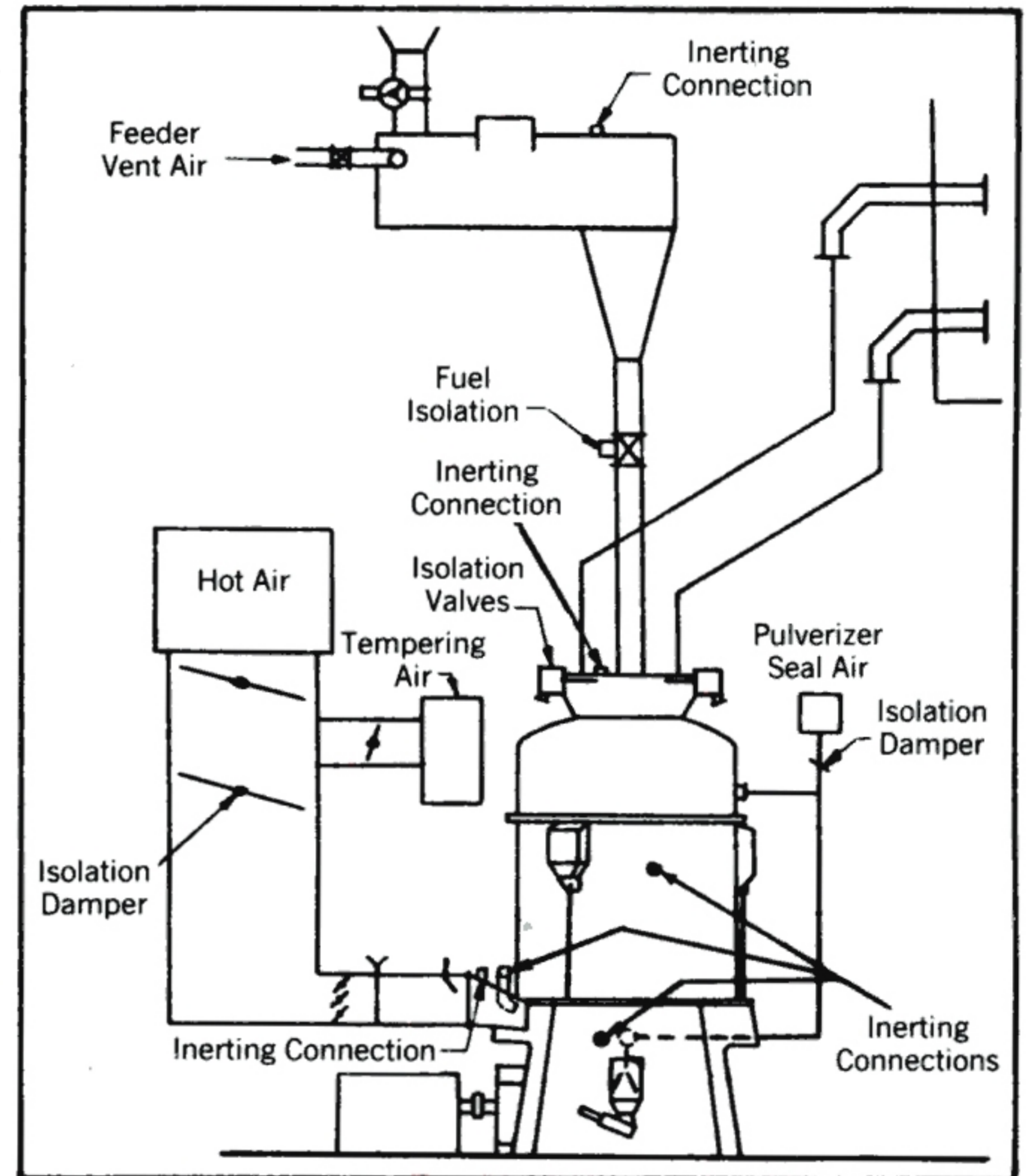
Pulverizer fires may occur and should be considered dangerous. A fire in an air-swept pulverizing system represents a stable but dangerous situation. To extinguish the fire, the pulverizer must be shut down. However, during the shut-down procedure, the pulverizer passes through a potentially explosive fuel-air mixture condition. In some instances, pulverizer system explosions have occurred.

Recommendations

It is necessary to shut down the pulverizer system in a manner that minimizes the potentially explosive mixture and the time during which this mixture can exist.

To accomplish this, the pulverized-fuel systems should be reviewed to determine the adequacies of at least the following operating parameters — ask yourself these questions:

- **Inerting System**
 1. Is the inerting media sized per the pulverized manufacturer's specifications?
 2. Is the inerting system located away from the pulverizer to prevent damage caused by fire, corrosion and/or explosion?
- **Control System**
 1. Will the control system isolate the mill?
 2. Will the controls initiate the inerting sequence?
- **Procedures and Personnel Training**
 1. Are all plant and operating personnel well trained on how to react to the various type of fires?
 2. Are procedures in line with available guidelines?



Typical schematic of isolation and inerting points.

- **Maintenance and Housecleaning**
 1. Are good maintenance practices followed?
 2. Is maintenance done per the manufacturer's guidelines?
 3. Are good housecleaning practices followed?

If you are unsure of any answers to the preceding questions, the following should be reviewed:

- The Manufacturer's Operating and Maintenance Instructions and Procedures
- The latest Guide Specifications for isolation, inerting and clearing the pulverizer system
- The applicable National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) code

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Warning

When a pulverizer system fire is suspected, it is strongly recommended that the areas above, around and below the hazardous location be cleared of personnel.

Support

If you are unsure of answers to the preceding questions, or identify problems requiring further information, contact B&W Field Service Engineering for assistance.

For more information in the U.S., call 1-800-BABCOCK (222-2625) or fax (216) 860-1886 (Barberton, Ohio). Outside the U.S., call (519) 621-2130 or fax (519) 621-2142 (Cambridge, Ontario, Canada). In Mexico, call (5) 208-1906 or fax (5) 533-5550. Or contact your nearest B&W sales or service office worldwide.

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