

At Least Four Serious Fires at Shearon Harris

02/04/88 Harris declared an emergency (Unusual Event) when the reactor auxiliary building supply fan motor S-3B was reported to be smoking. The electrical breaker for the fan was opened to de-energize the motor. (*NRC Daily Event Report No. 11414, February 4, 1988.*)

10/10/89 MAJOR FIRE AT SHEARON HARRIS: Harris declared an emergency (Alert level) at Harris due to a major fire in the main generator and “B” main transformer caused by electrical shorts. The fire ran 100 feet down an electrical cable, causing a hydrogen leak and explosion, and damaged three floors of the turbine building. Two local fire departments aided the small on-site fire brigade, and about 30 firefighters fought the blaze, which took 90 minutes to bring under control, and over three hours to extinguish. Staffers said "it is unknown at this time if the fire could have caused impedance of safely-related equipment or operator action." The fire caused the plant to be out of commission for at least two weeks; repairs continued during a previously scheduled refueling outage, which began October 21. (*Brian Jordan, "NRC Still Assessing Safety Significance of Major Fire at Shearon-Harris," Inside N.R.C., October 23, 1989. See also Attachment D*)

04/28/97 FIRE IN BATTERY ROOM: Harris workers called the Holly Springs fire department for assistance due to a fire in the A-SA battery room. The plant was in a refueling outage at the time. (*NRC Daily Event Report No. 32233, April 28, 1997*)

12/11/02 PUMP FIRE: Officials said a fire started about 3:45 a.m. near one of the pumps used to draw water to fight fires at the nuclear plant. The fire was quickly put out by someone at the facility. The cause was not reported at that time, but it was possibly a short-circuit in an electrical cable.

... and at least one electrical fire at Progress Energy’s Brunswick plant:

“FLAMES DESTROY 1 OF 2 TRANSFORMERS; Fire cuts output at Brunswick plant
The Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport was operating at about half capacity Friday after an early-morning fire destroyed one of its two main transformers.”
Wilmington Morning Star, September 23, 2000