



# Large-Scale Fire Testing of Electric Vehicles in Tunnels



**Phil Friday, P.E., FSFPE**

Vice President, Product Technology

[pfriday@reliablesprinkler.com](mailto:pfriday@reliablesprinkler.com)

+1-678-640-0591



Not the best spot to do that.



**Reliable**<sup>®</sup>

00:00:32:00

**Applus**<sup>+</sup>  
laboratories



   
SPEED CAMERA  
24 HOURS IN TUNNEL  
VARIABLE SPEED  
LIMIT ENFORCED

# Reliable<sup>®</sup>

## MODEL TNL280 SPRAY NOZZLE



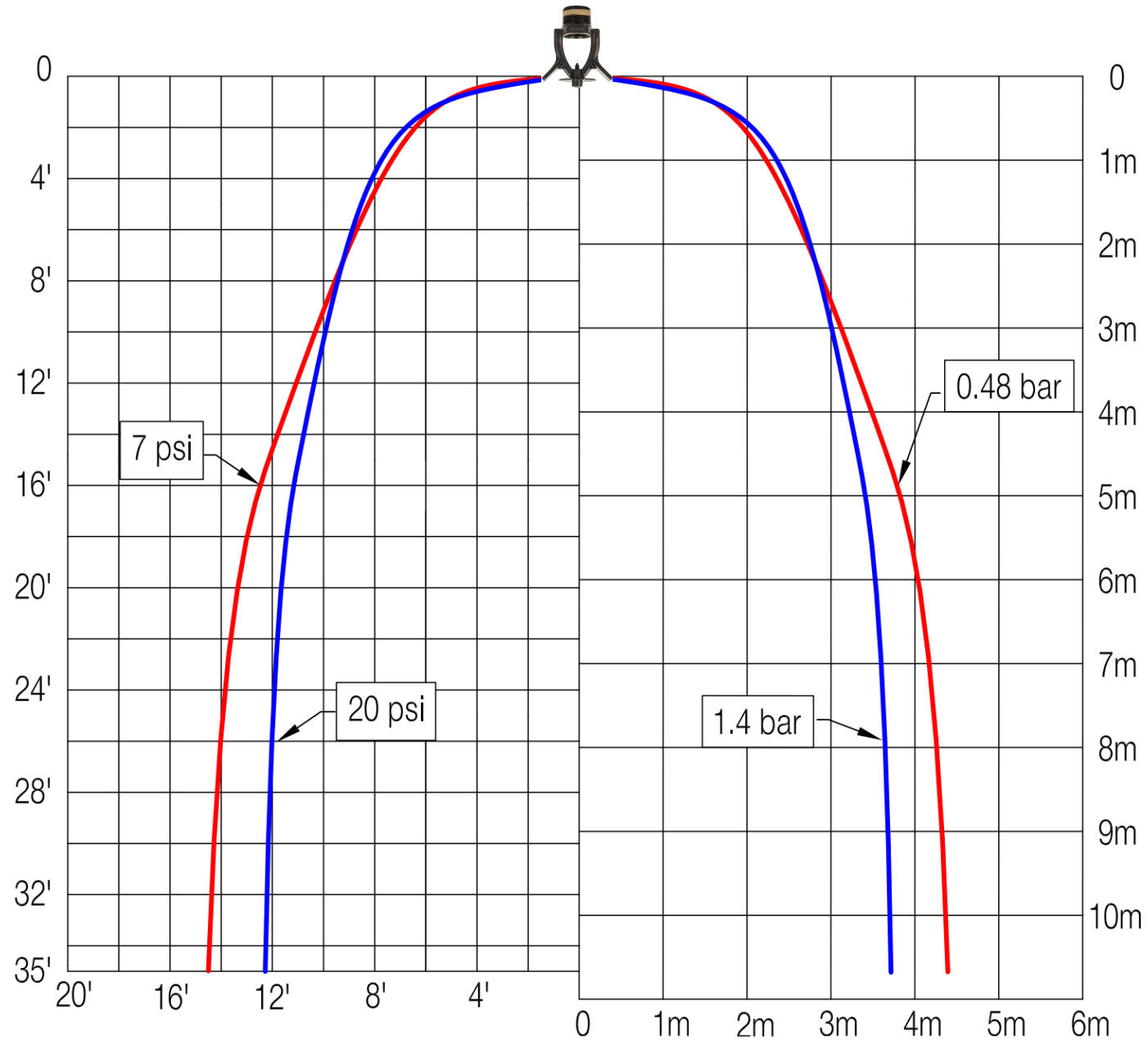
# Model TNL280 Spray Nozzle

- \\ Spray nozzle designed for tunnel fire protection
  - May be used in other applications
- \\ Approvals:
  - cULus Listed
- \\ Pressure rating:
  - 12 bar (175 psi)
- \\ K-factor:
  - 400 (28.0)
- \\ Coverage:
  - 5.5 m x 5.5 m (18 ft x 18 ft)
- \\ Finish:
  - RASCO500 Ceramic Coating
    - cULus Listed corrosion resistant
- \\ Installation wrench
  - W5
- \\ Technical Bulletin 099

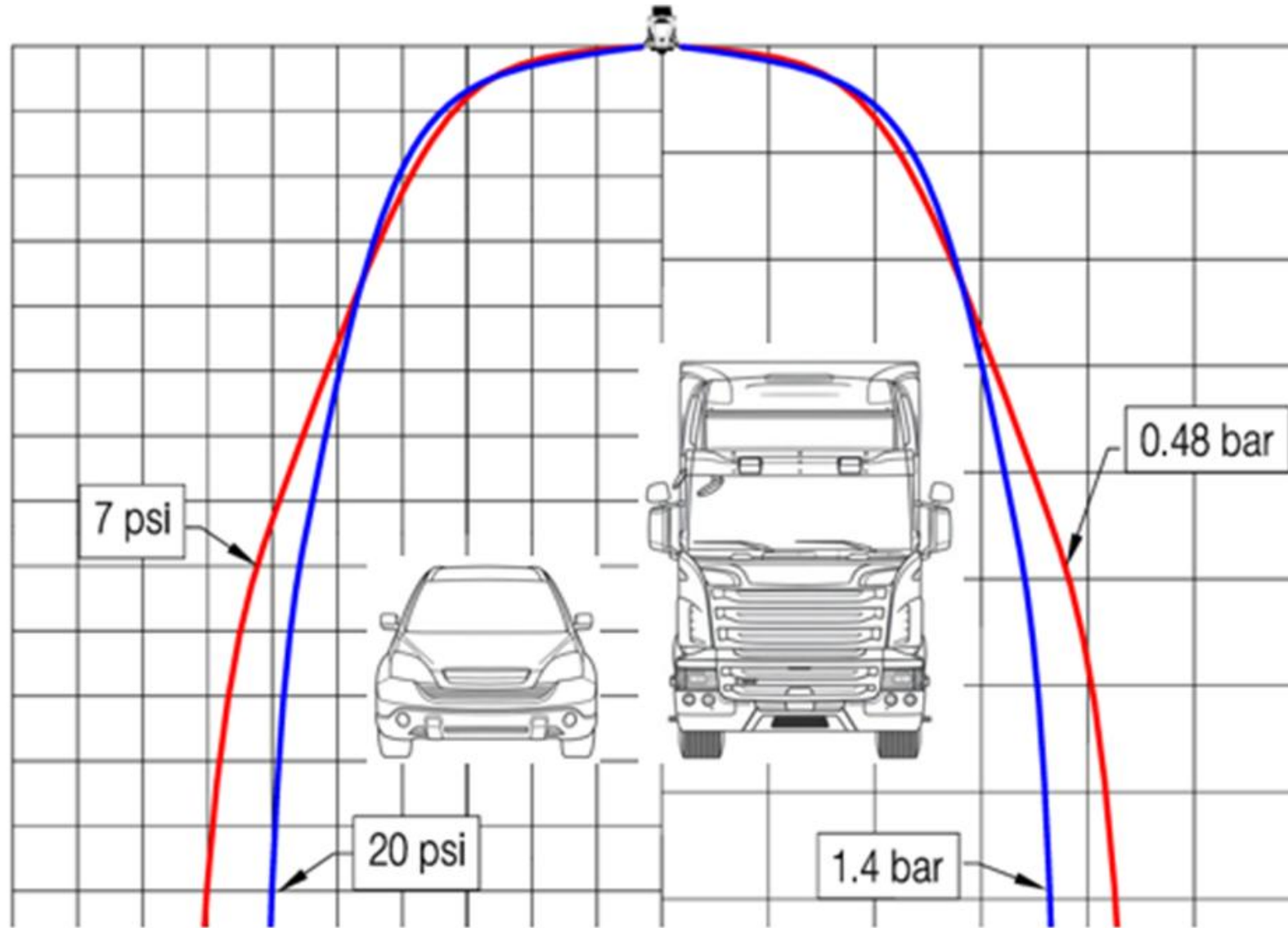


Model  
TNL280

# Model TNL280 Pendent Spray Pattern Graph



# Model TNL280 Pendent Spray Pattern Graph



# Model TNL280 Dimensions & Hydraulics



Listed Water Spray Density for Installation for Coverage Area of 18' x 18' (5.5m x 5.5m)

Table A

Max. Nozzle Height Above Finished Floor ft (m)	Average Water Spray Density over the Coverage Area* gpm/ft <sup>2</sup> (mm/min)	Flow Rate gpm (L/min)	Operating Pressure psi (bar)
20 (6.1)	0.217 (8.8)	75 (285)	7 (0.5)
	0.37 (15.0)	125 (475)	20 (1.4)
35 (10.7)	0.176 (7.2)	75 (285)	7 (0.5)
	0.27 (11.0)	125 (475)	20 (1.4)

\*Note: Listed to provide +/- 15% of the Average Water Spray Density over the Coverage Area under test conditions specified in UL 2351.

Project Name	TNL280's Installed
M5 Tunnel, Sydney	11,000
West Connex M4-M5 Link in Sydney	13,500
West Connex Rozelle Interchange in Sydney	10,200
M6 in Sydney	4,600
Qiddiya Resort Core Tunnel in Saudi Arabia	3,100



## \\ Location:

- Applus+TST Facility
- San Pedro de Anes Asturias, Spain



## \\ Tunnel length:

- 600 m (1969 ft)

## \\ Tunnel width:

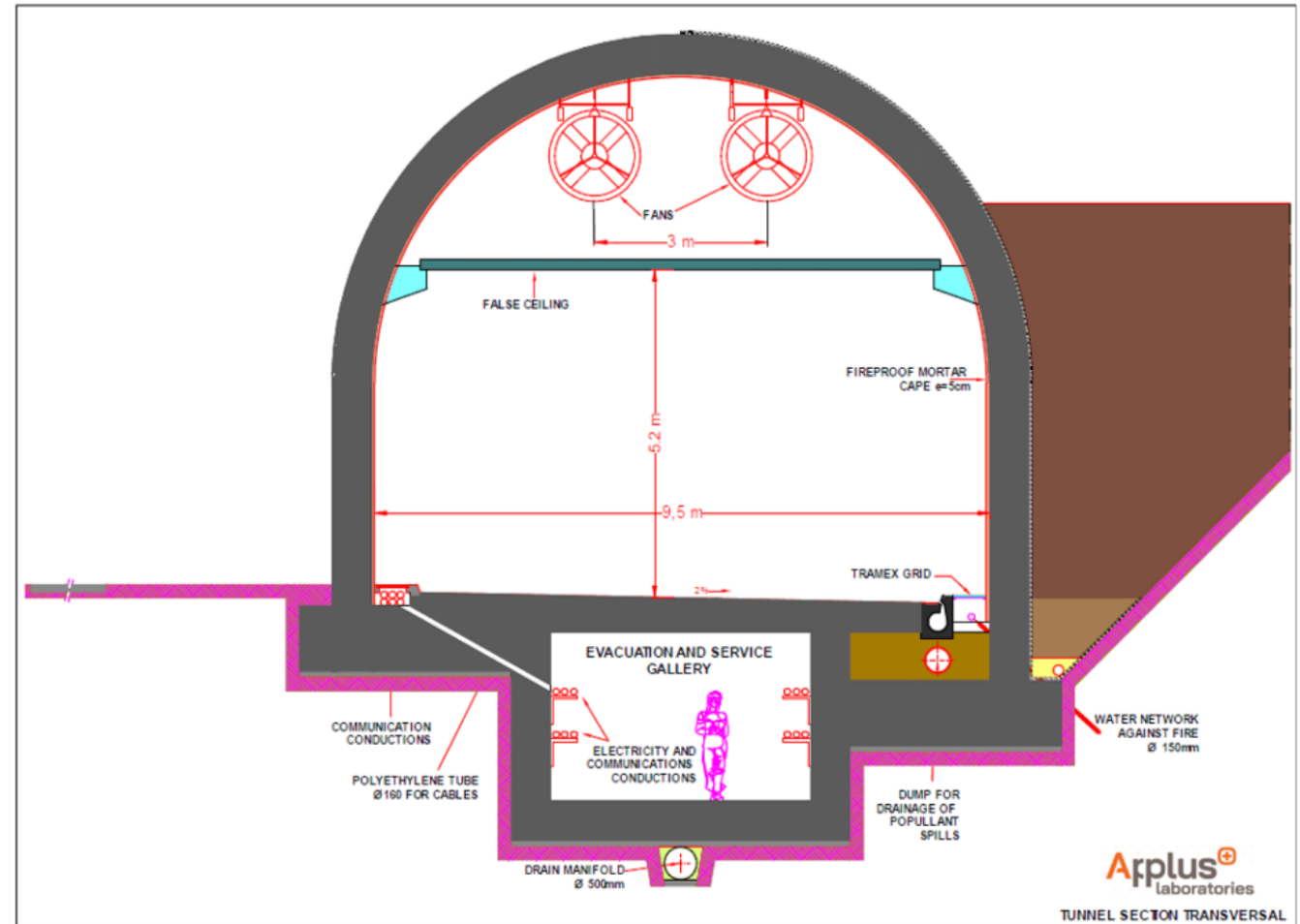
- 9.5 m (31 ft 2 in.)

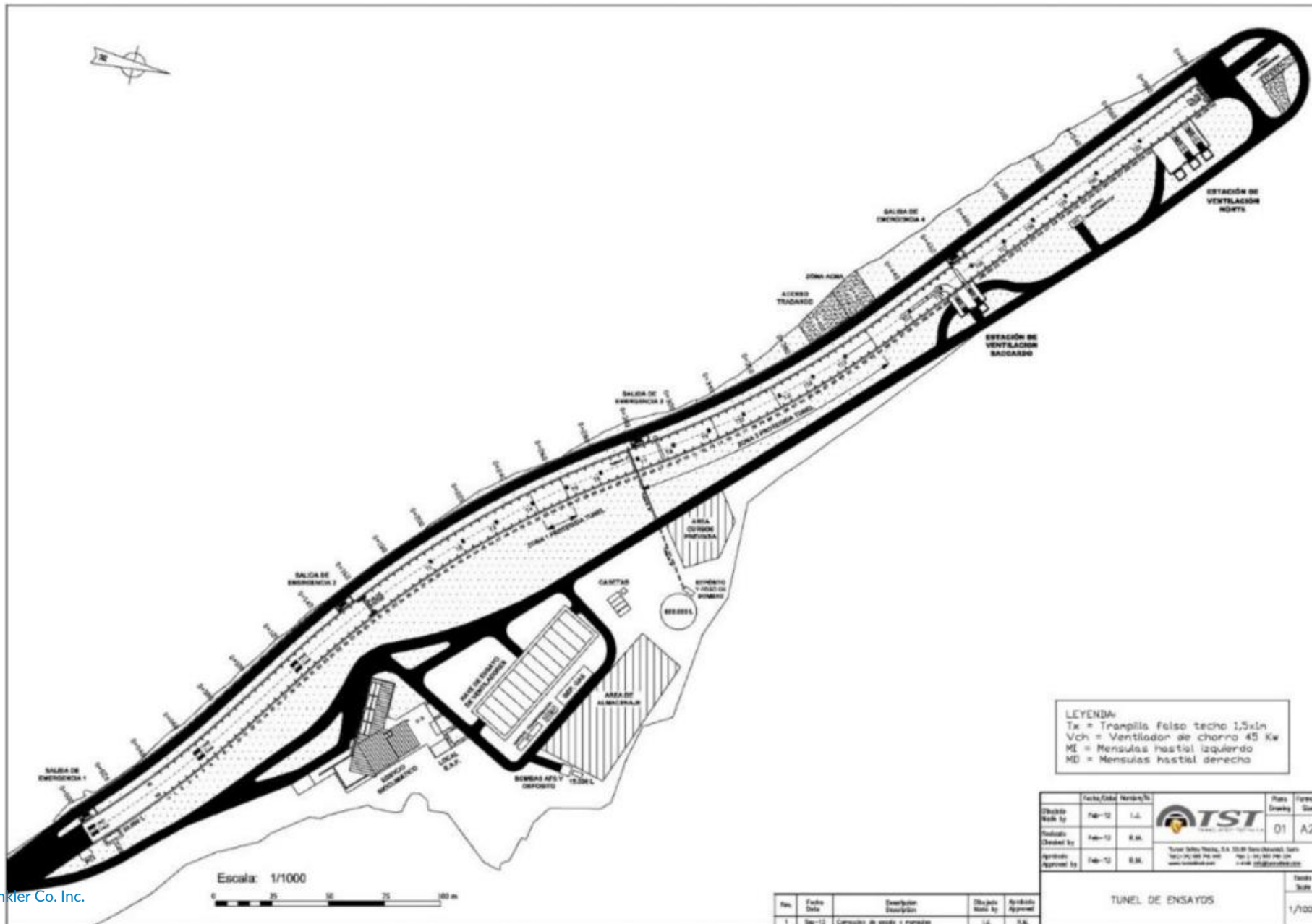
## \\ Tunnel height:

- 5.2 m (17 ft)

## \\ Fixed fire fighting system:

- Deluge system
- K400 (K28) Nozzles (Reliable Model TNL280)



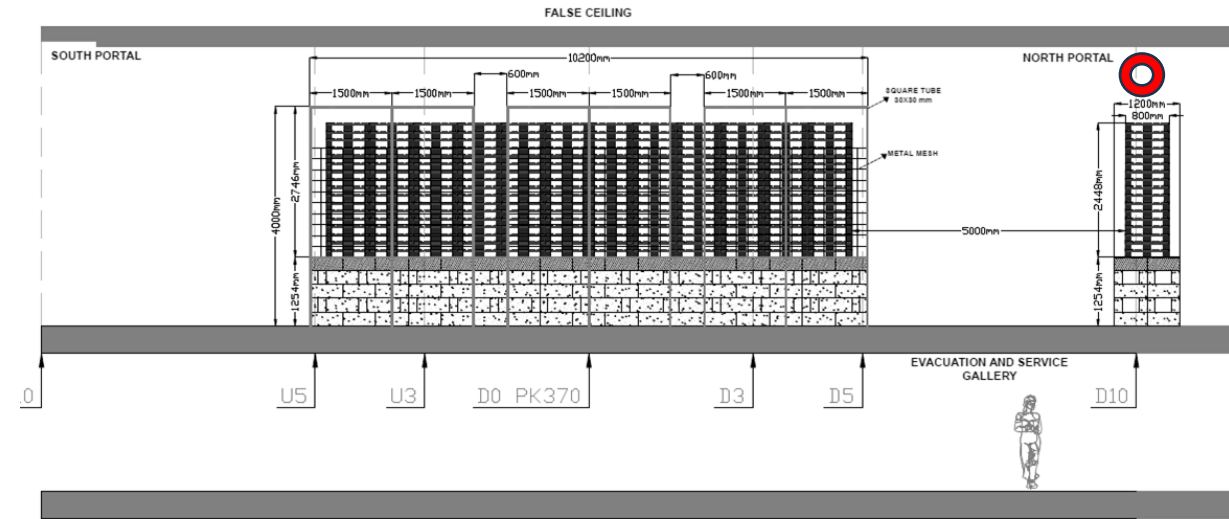
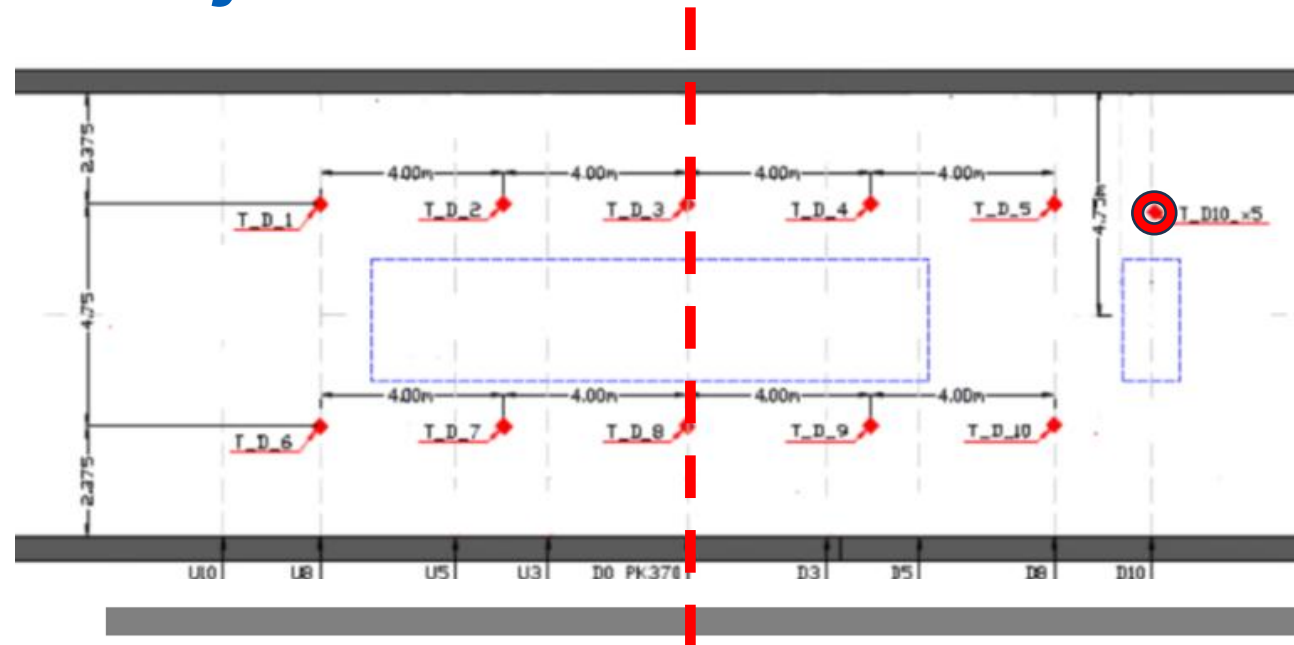




Applus+ TST



# Instrumentation Layout



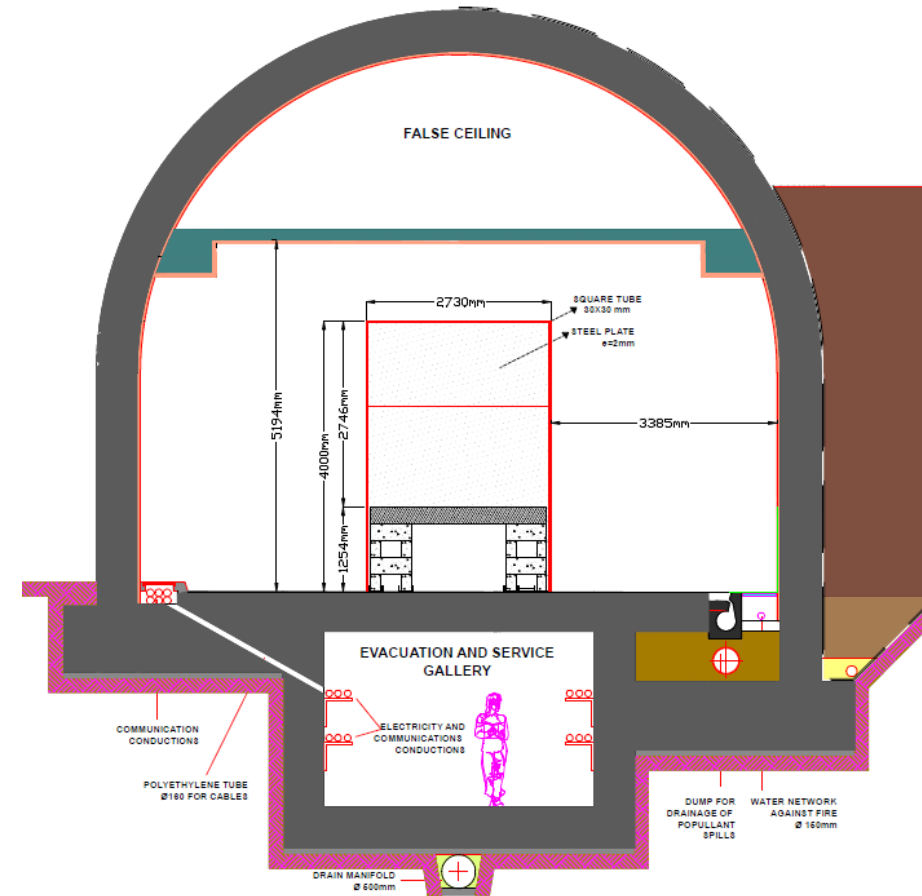
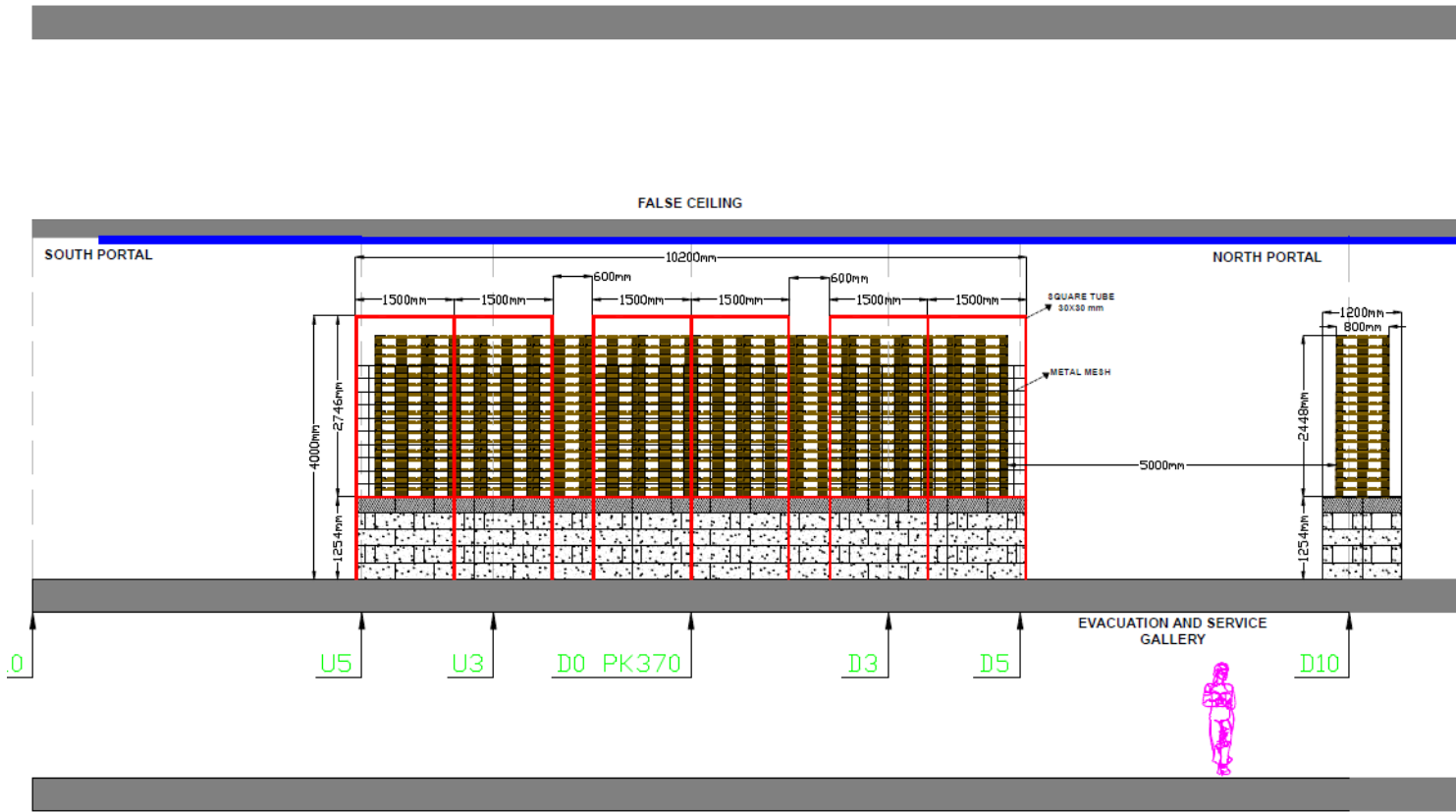


<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Performance criteria</b>
<b>Criteria 1 - Temperature</b>	Temperature at 1.8 m height upstream from U10 and downstream from D10 shall not exceed 60°C during all the test, no later than 120 seconds after FFFS activation.
<b>Criteria 2 – Heat flux</b>	Heat flux at 1.8 m height upstream U15 and downstream D15 shall not exceed 5 kW/m <sup>2</sup> during all the test, no later than 120 seconds after FFFS activation.
<b>Criteria 3 - Fire spread</b>	Target 5 m from fire load shall be not ignited during all the test.

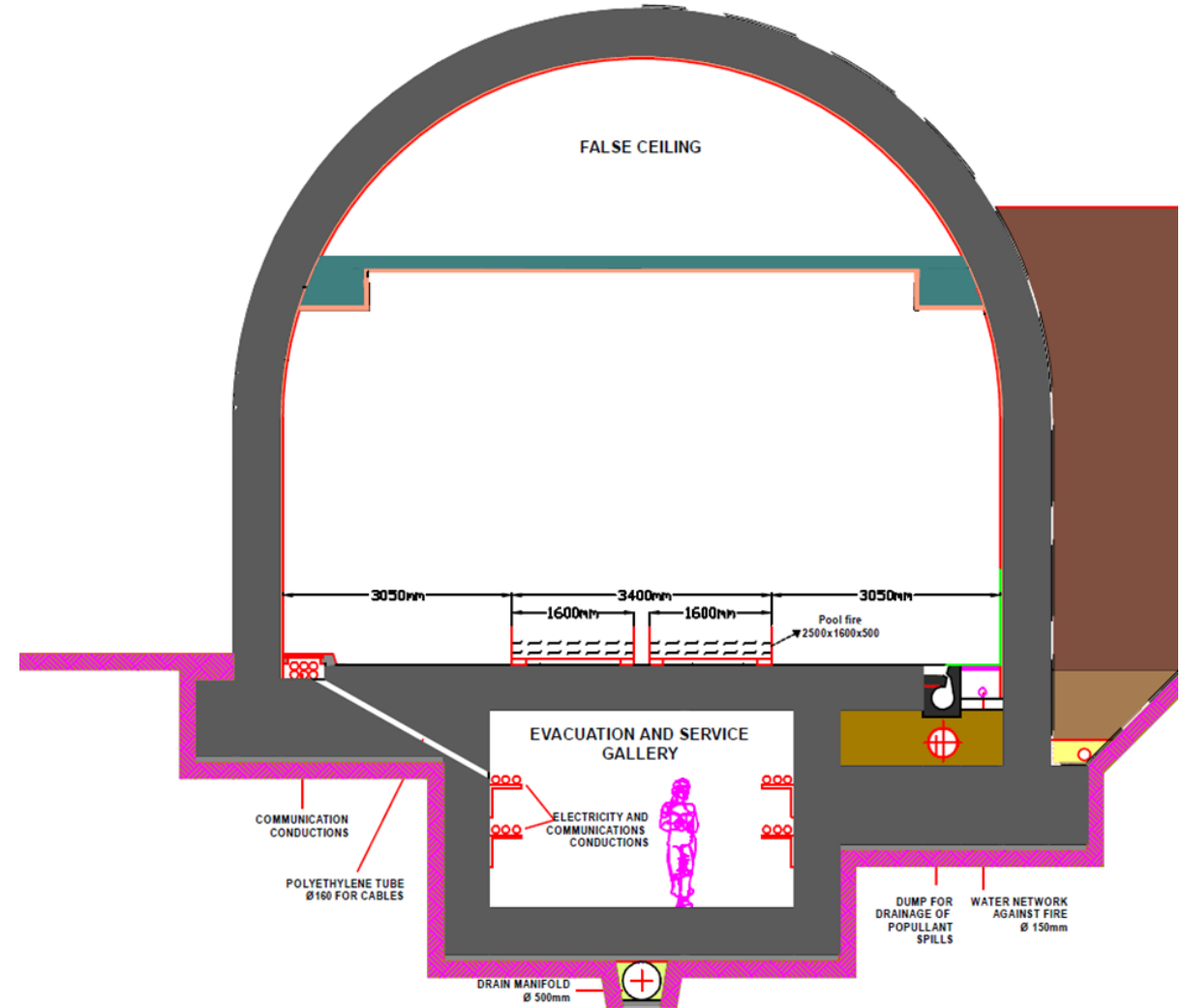
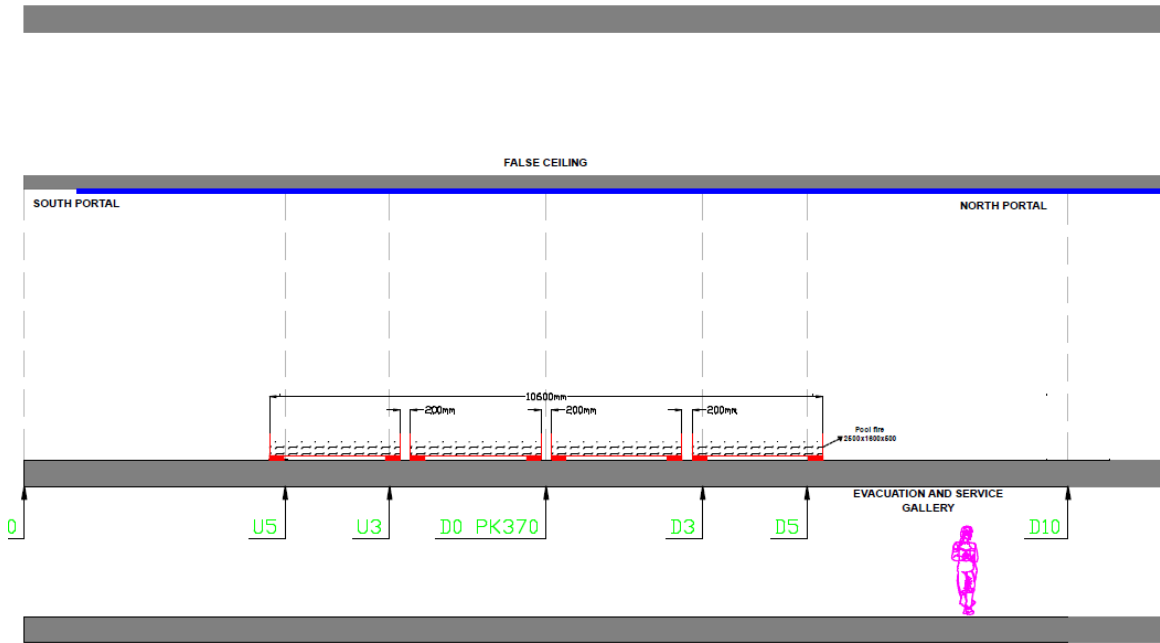
# Summary of Tests

	Test Scenario	Ignition Location	Detection Temperature	Time from Ignition to Detection	Nominal Delay Time	Water Transport Time	Water Arrival After Detection	Air Velocity
Test 1	408 Wooden Pallets (150 MW)	Under 1 Line	100 C	2 min 48 s	2 min	22 s	2 min 28 s	3 m/s
Test 2	408 Wooden Pallets (150 MW)	Between 2 Lines	100 C	3 min 50 s	3 min	20 s	3 min 20 s	4 m/s (4.7 m/s)*
Test 3	408 Wooden Pallets (150 MW)	Between 2 Lines	68 C	6 min 38 s	2 min	16 s	2 min 16 s	3 m/s
Test 4	Diesel Pool Fire (60 MW)	Between 2 Lines	68 C	29 s	2 min	5 m 16 s	7 m 16 s	3 m/s
Test 5	EV Test	Between 2 Lines	68 C	46 m 25 s	3 min	16 s	3 m 24 s	2 m/s

# Class A Commodity



## SIDE VIEW



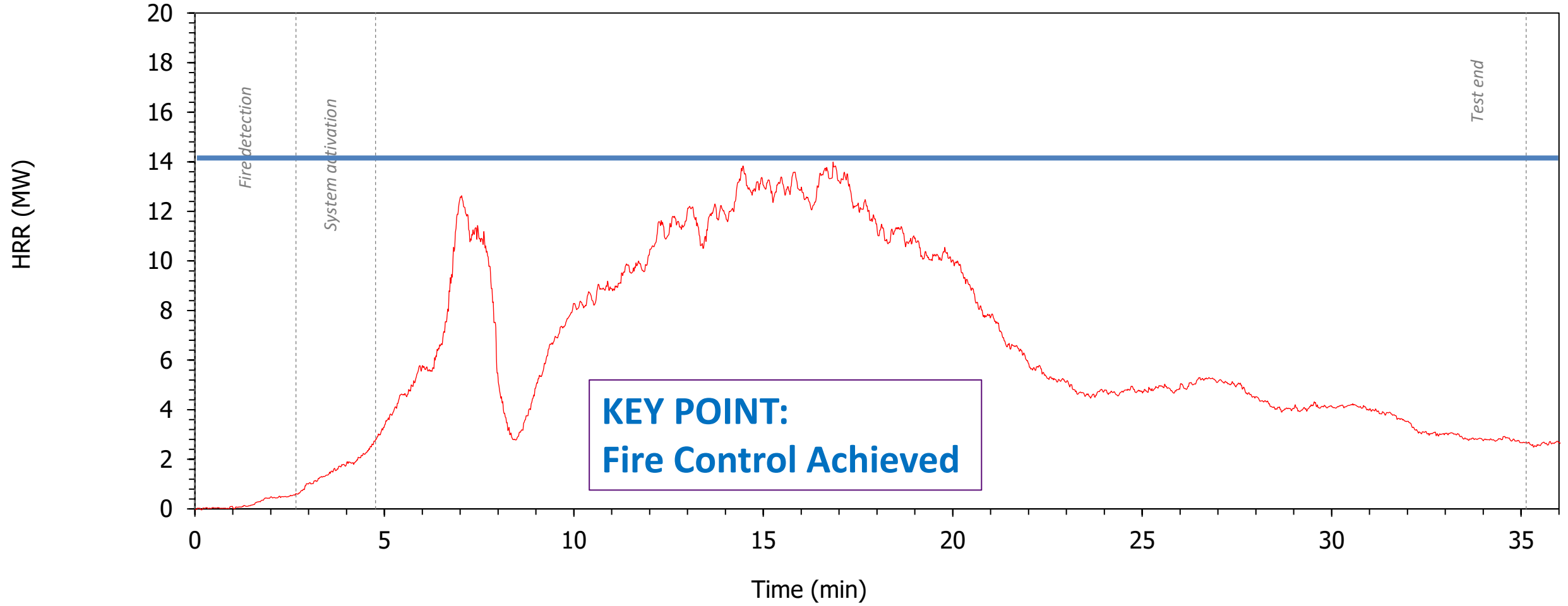
# Test 1- Summary

## Test Conditions:

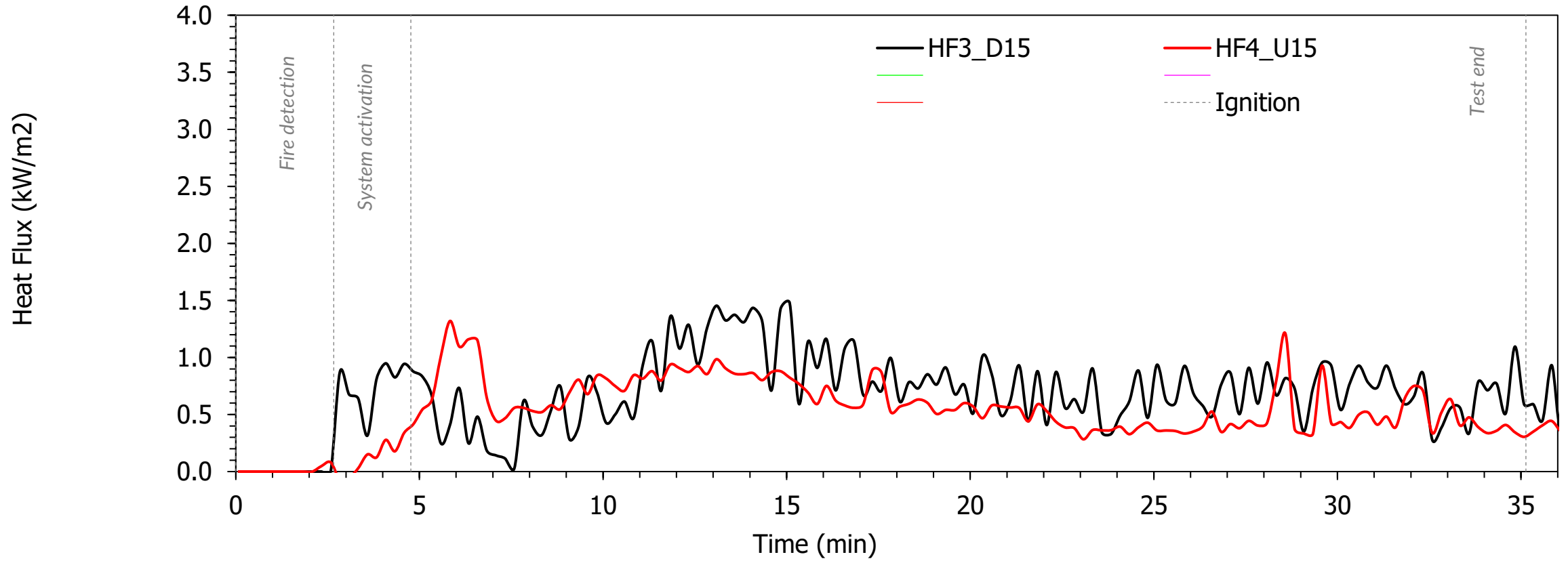
TNL280 Tunnel Nozzle:	K400 (K28)
Distance between nozzles:	5.5 m (18 ft) [max. allowed]
Nozzle pressure:	0.5 bar (7 psi) [min. allowed]
Activation Temperature:	100 C (212 F)
Time Delay:	2 min
Air Velocity	3 m/s (9.8 ft/s) 10.8 km/h



# Test 1 – Heat Release Rate (HRR)



# Test 1- Heat Flux









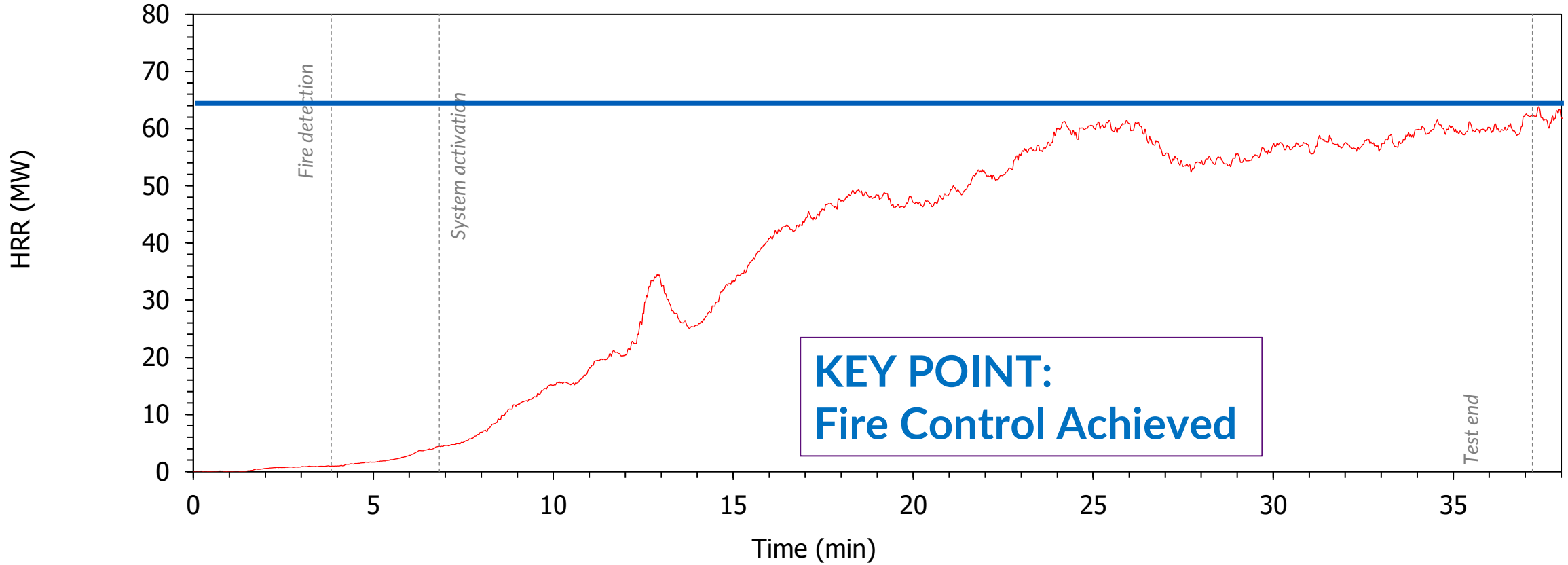


# Test 2- Summary

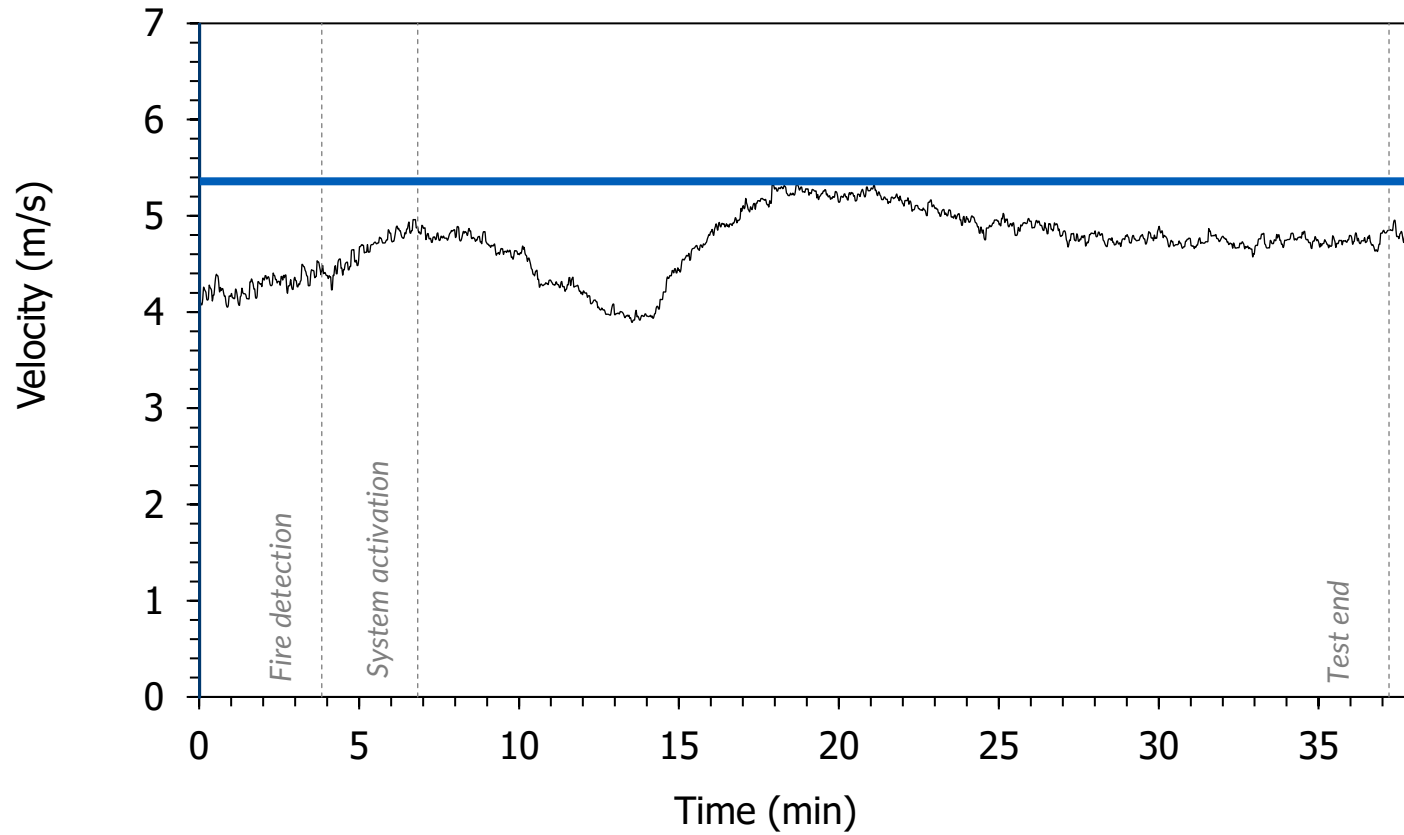
## Test Conditions:

TNL280 Tunnel Nozzle:	K400 (K28)
Distance between nozzles:	5.5 m (18 ft)
Nozzle pressure:	0.5 bar (7 psi)
Activation Temperature:	100 C (212 F)
Time Delay:	3 min
Air Velocity	4.7 m/s (15.4 ft/s) 16.9 km/h

# Test 2- Heat Release Rate (HRR)

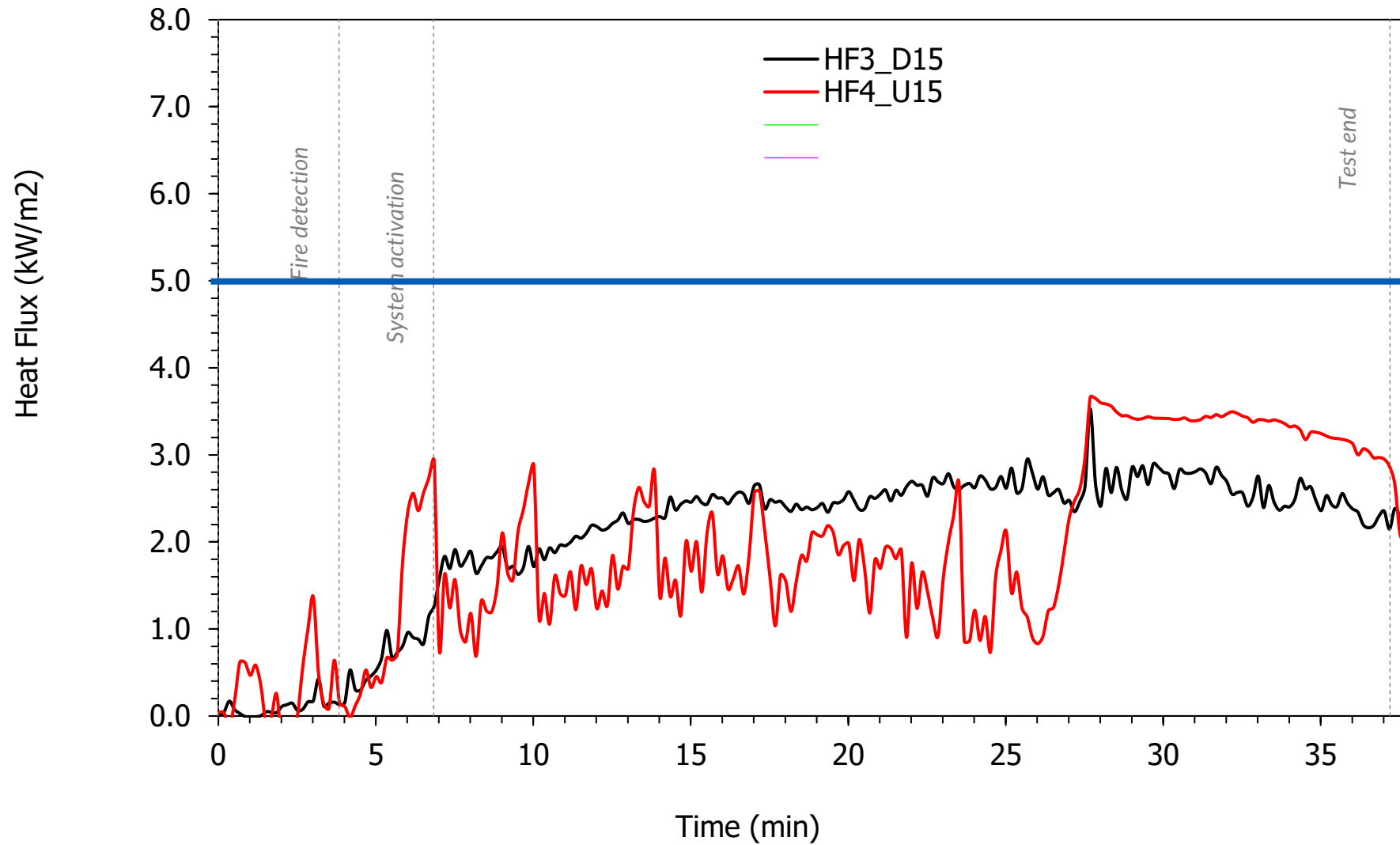


# Test 2- Average Air Velocity



Average air velocity for this test was **4.7 m/s!**

# Test 2- Heat Flux







Arplus<sup>+</sup>  
laboratories



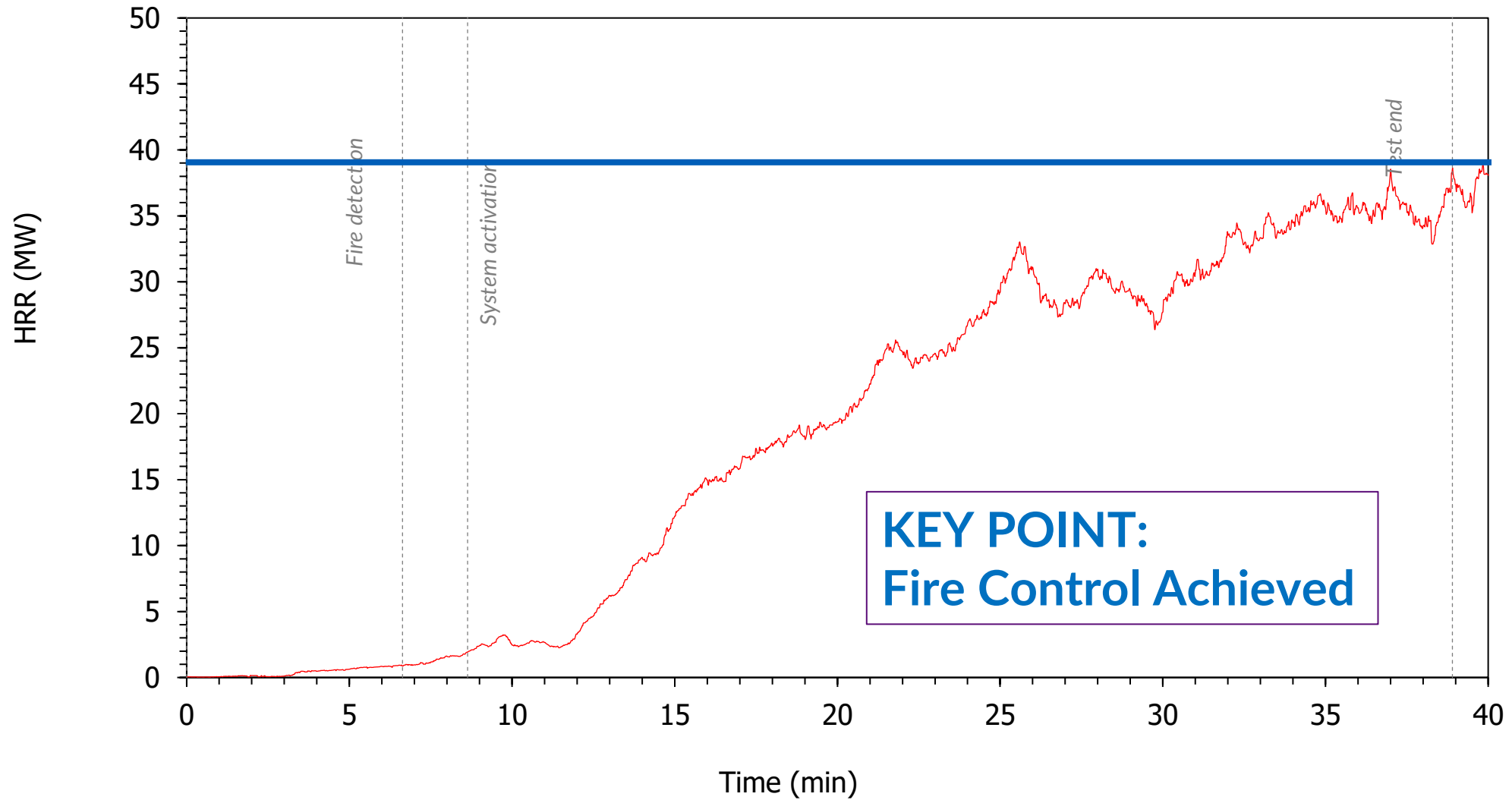
# Test 3- Summary

## Test Conditions:

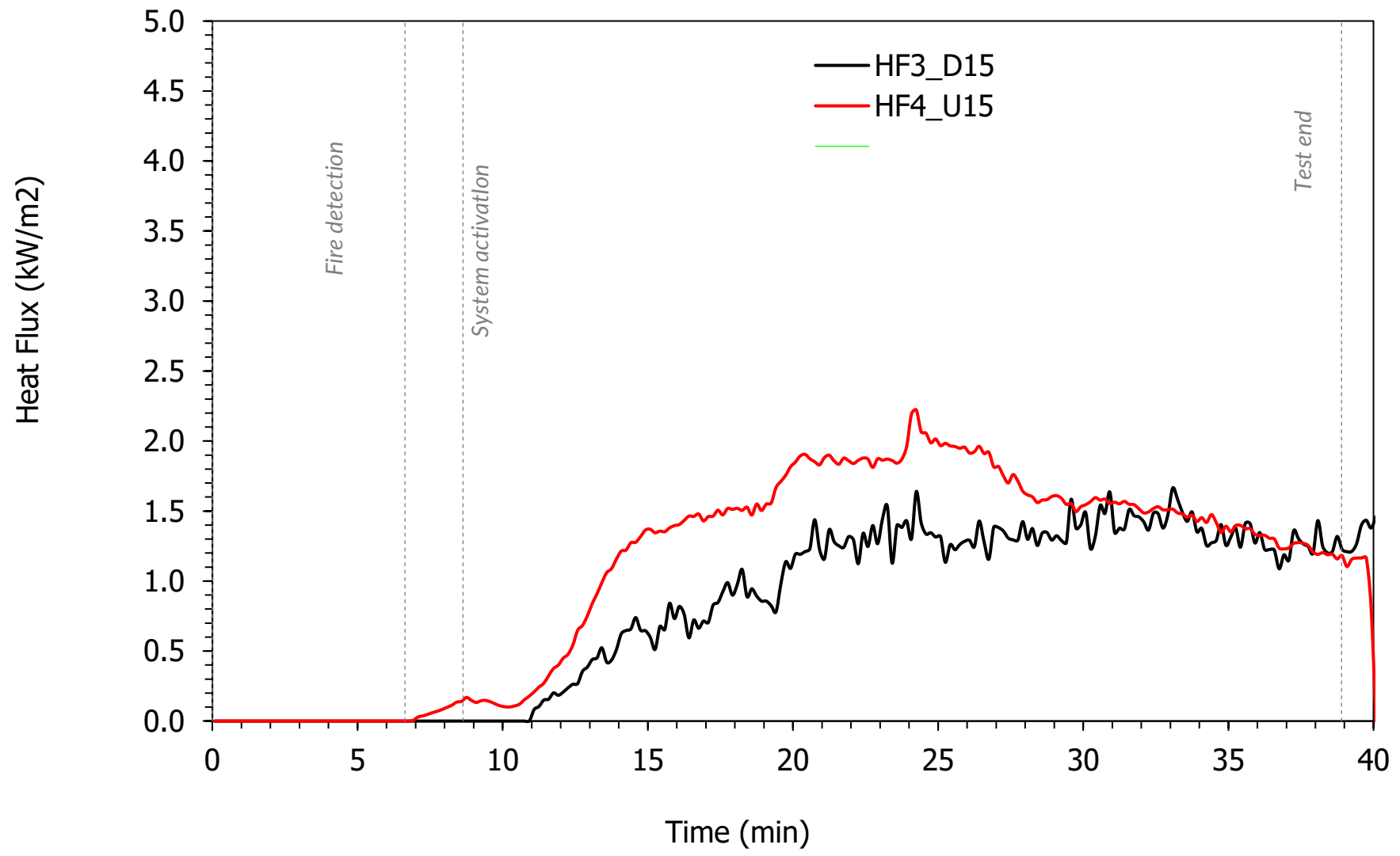
TNL280 Tunnel Nozzle:	K400 (K28)
Distance between nozzles:	5.5 m (18 ft)
Nozzle pressure:	0.5 bar (7 psi)
Activation Temperature:	68 C
Time Delay:	2 min
Air Velocity	3 m/s



# Test 3- Heat Release Rate (HRR)



# Test 3- Heat Flux















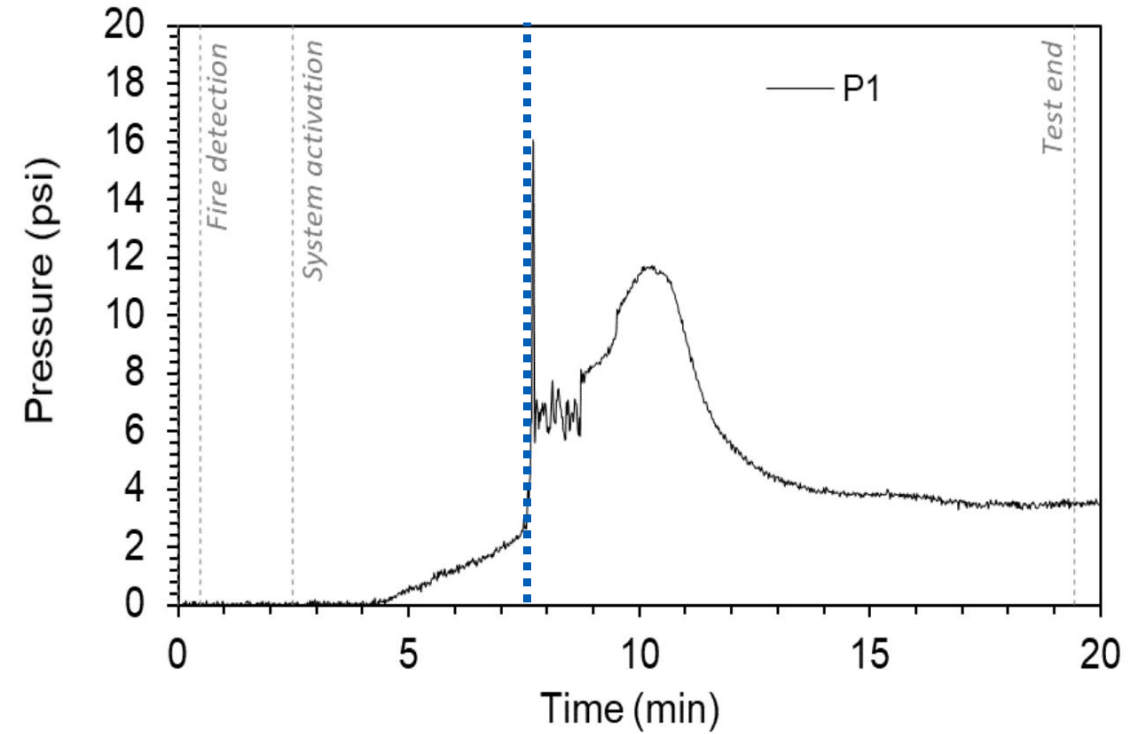
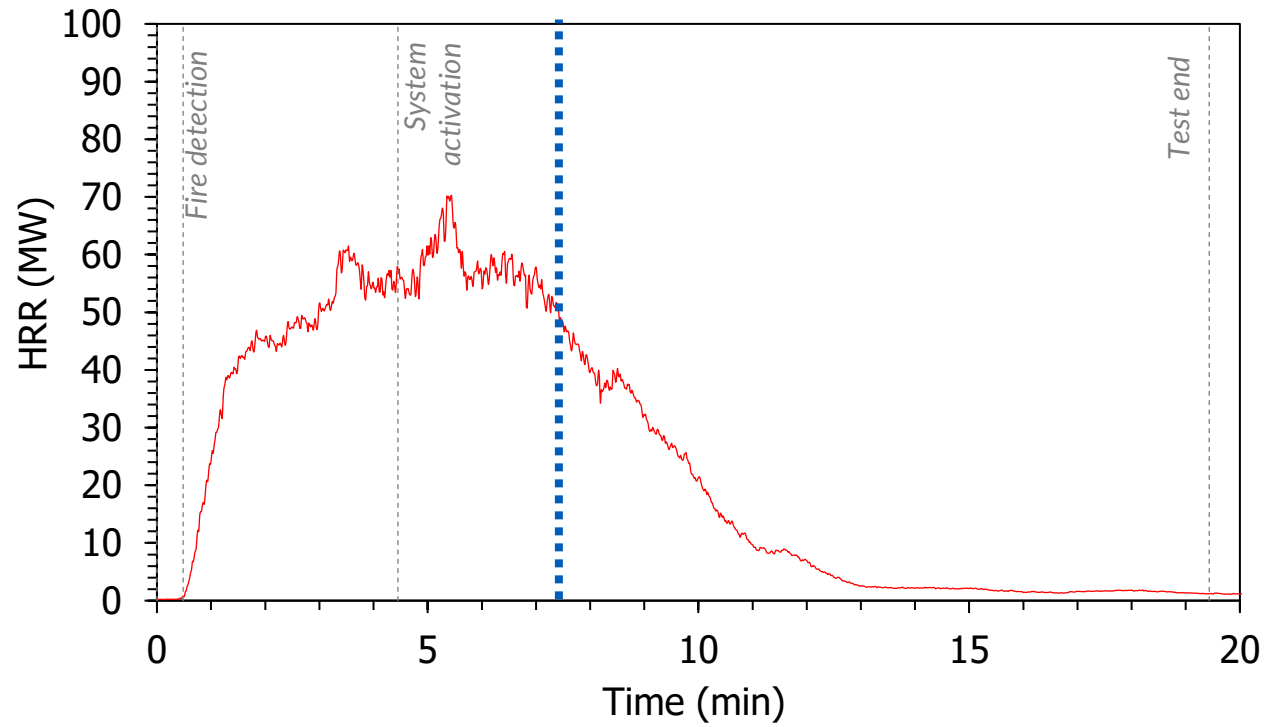
# Test 4- Summary

## Test Conditions:

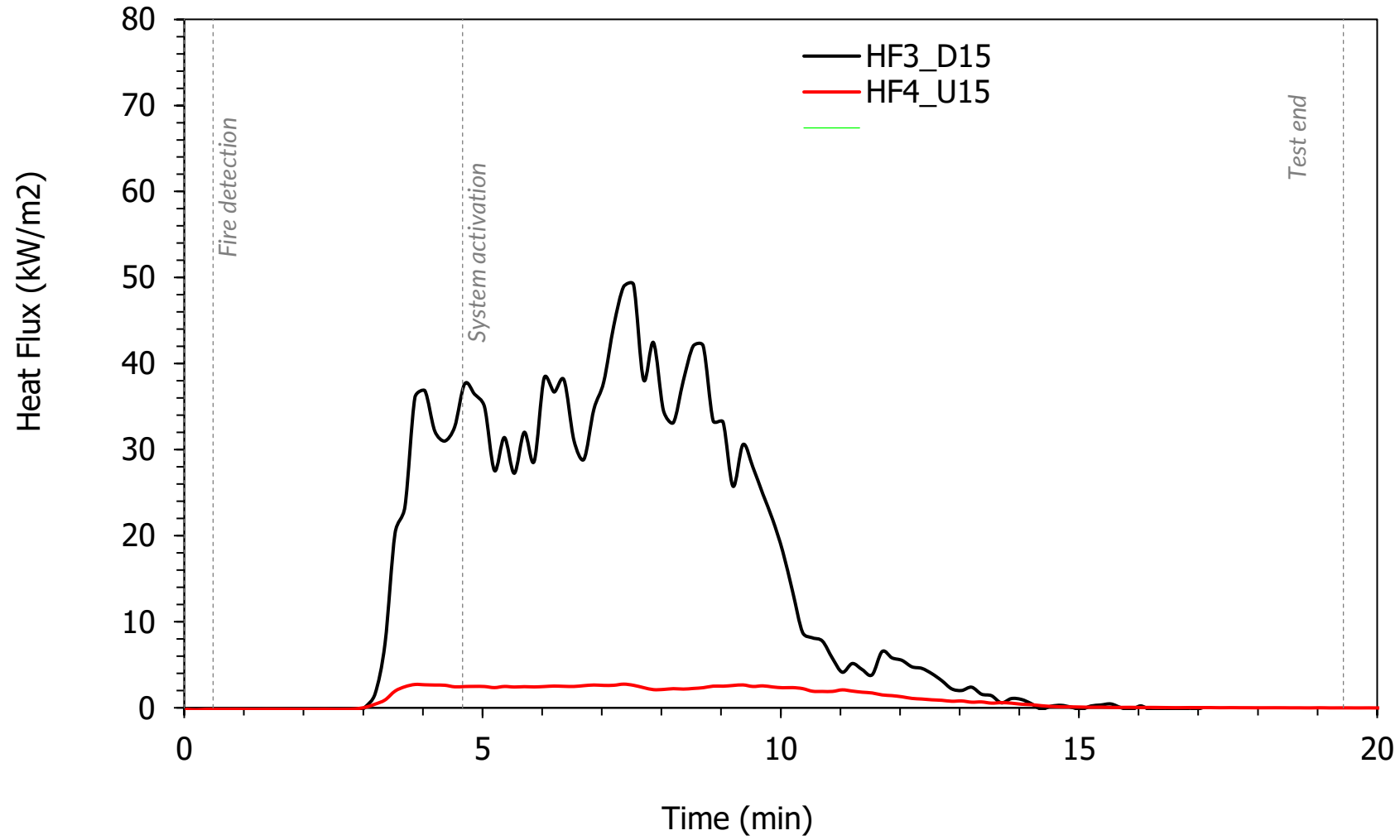
TNL280 Tunnel Nozzle:	K400 (K28)
Distance between nozzles:	5.5 m (18 ft)
Nozzle pressure:	0.5 bar (7 psi)
Activation Temperature:	68 C
Time Delay:	2 min
Air Velocity	3 m/s

**NO TEST**

# Test 4- HRR and System Pressure



# Test 4- Heat Flux





**Reliable<sup>®</sup>**

00:00:32:00

**Applus<sup>+</sup>**  
laboratories

# Test 5- EVs

## Test Conditions:

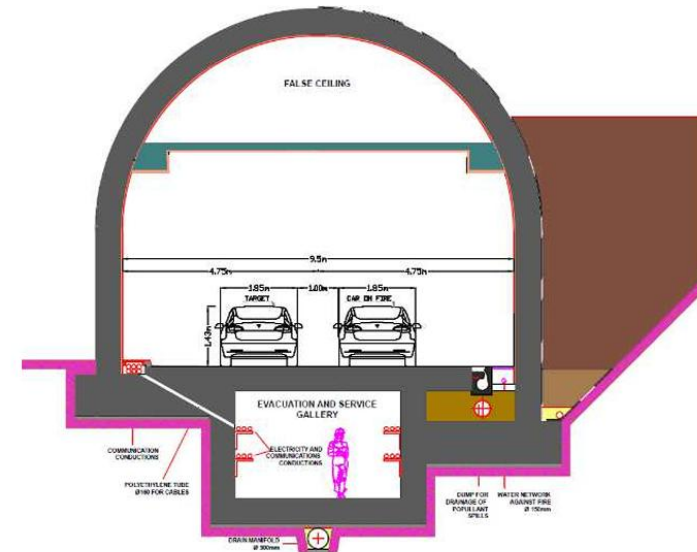
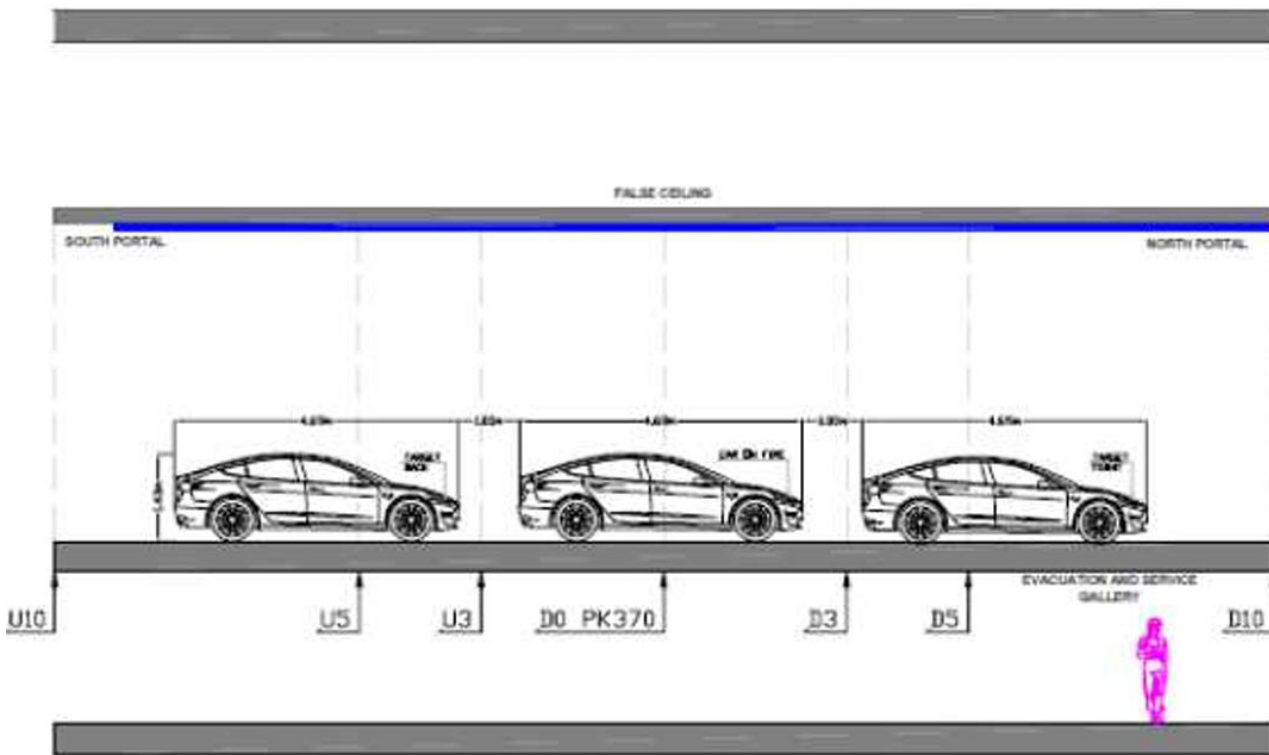
TNL280 Tunnel Nozzle:	K400 (K28)
Distance between nozzles:	5.5 m (18 ft)
Nozzle pressure:	0.5 bar (7 psi)

## Vehicles:

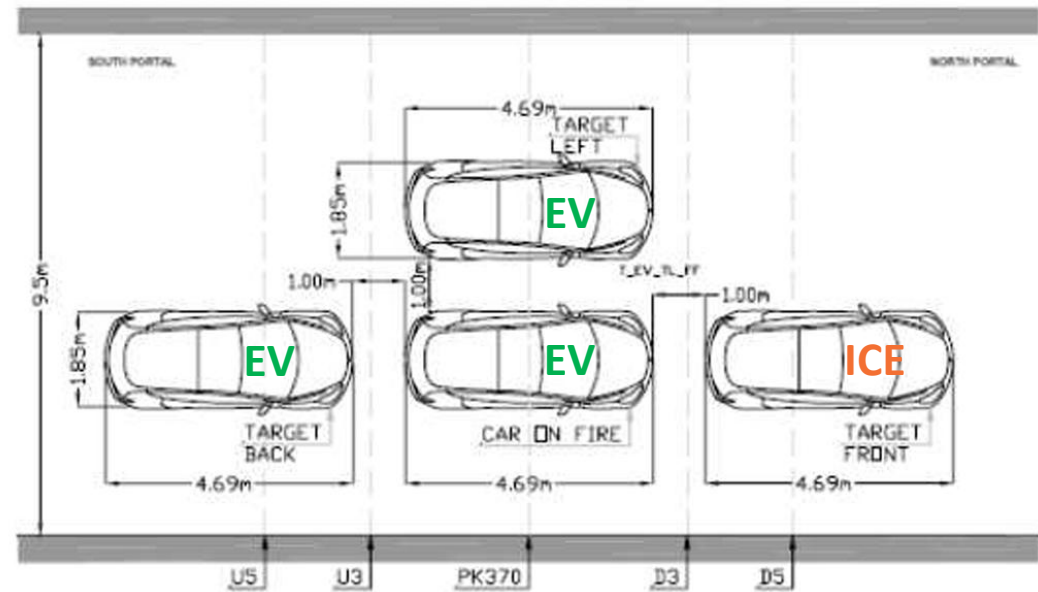
- Three (3) Tesla Model 3 EVs at 100% SOC
- One (1) ICE Vehicle

**Test simulated a fire involving multiple vehicles in the tunnel. FFFS was not activated until after three of four vehicles were involved.**

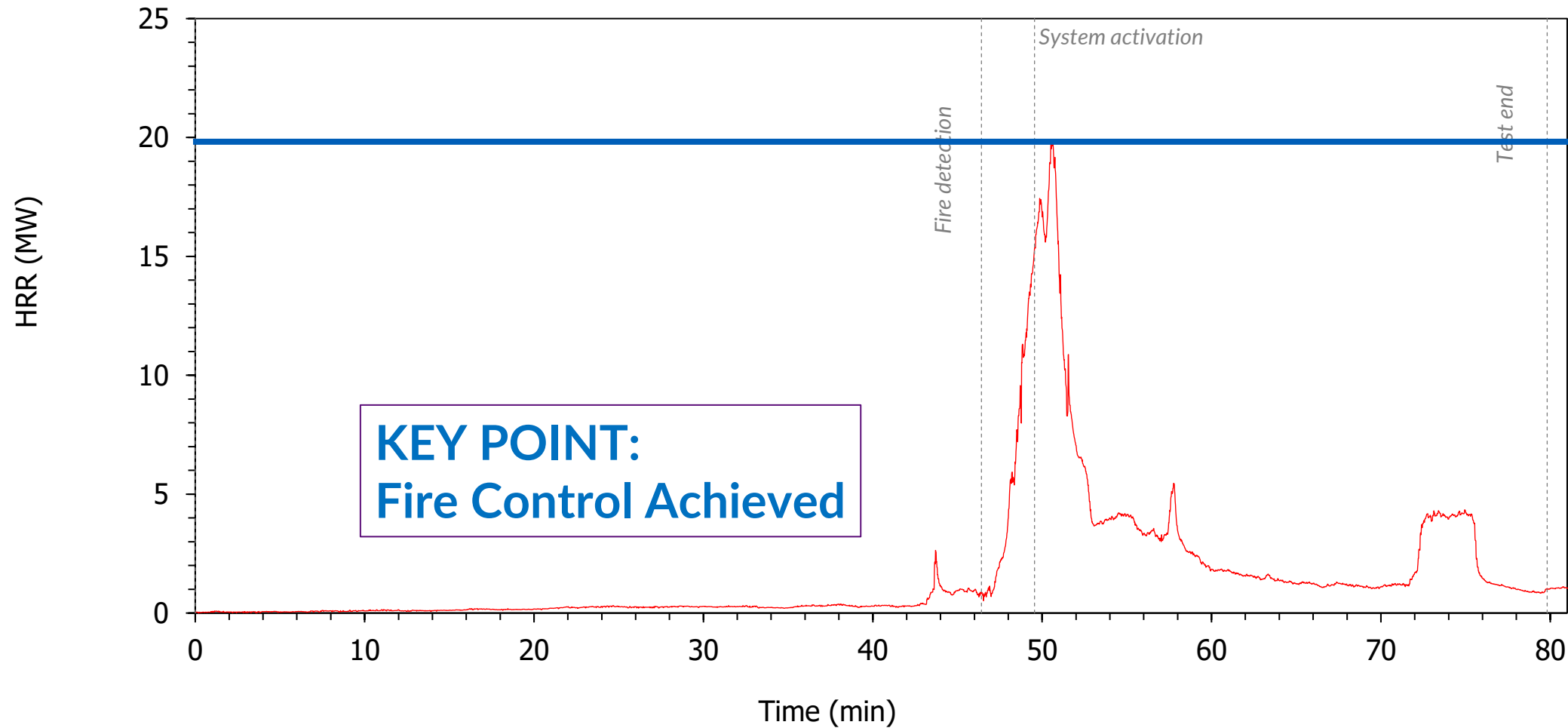
SIDE VIEW



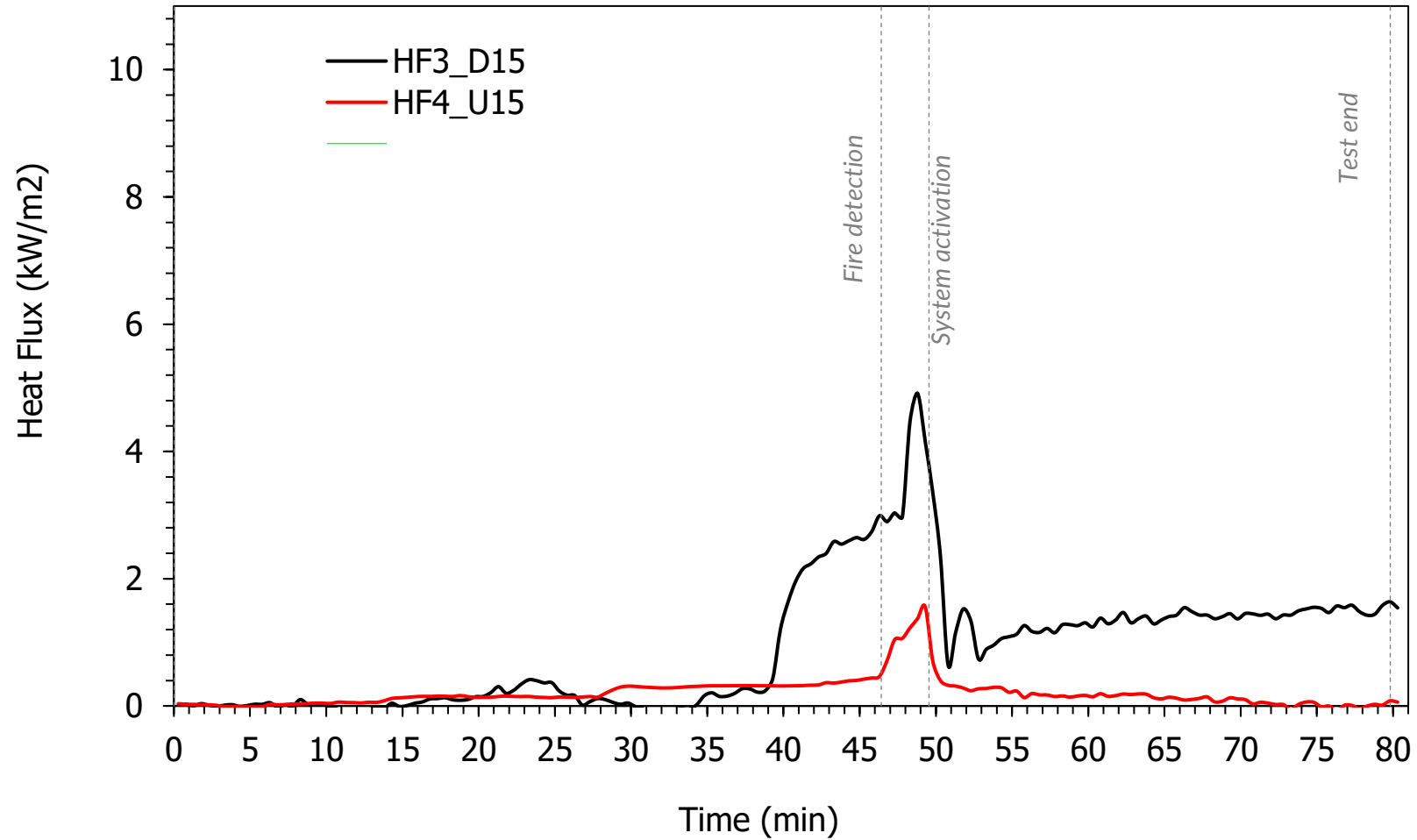
TOP VIEW



# Test 5- Heat Release Rate (HRR)



# Test 5- Heat Flux

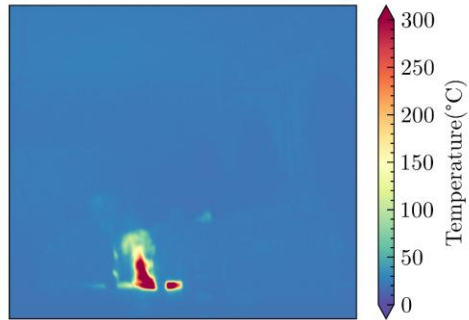




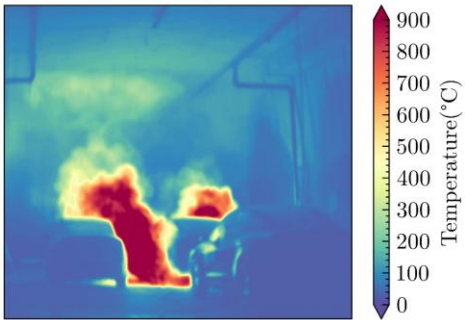


# Test 5- Thermal Imagery

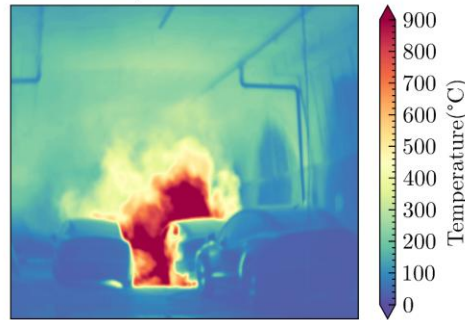
5 min before thermal runaway



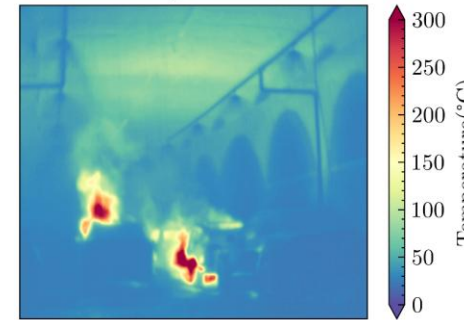
Thermal runaway occurrence



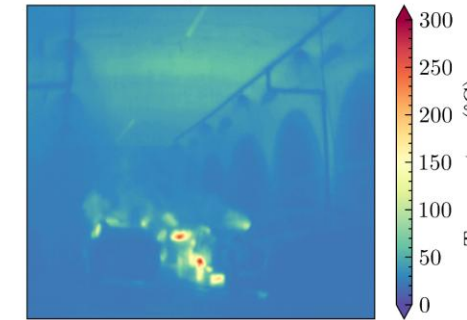
Before system activation



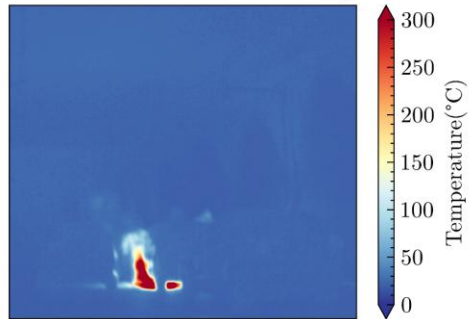
5 min after system activation



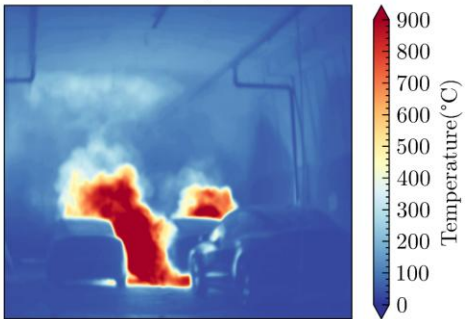
10 min after system activation



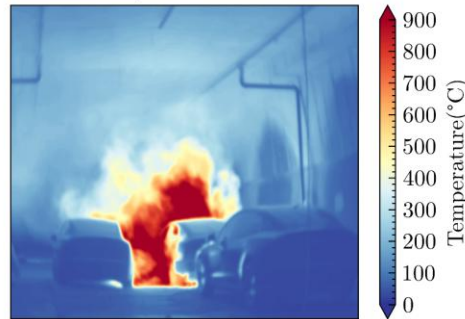
5 min before thermal runaway



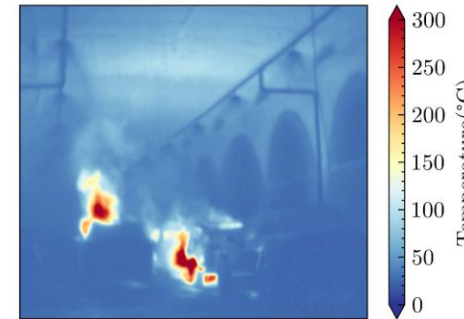
Thermal runaway occurrence



Before system activation



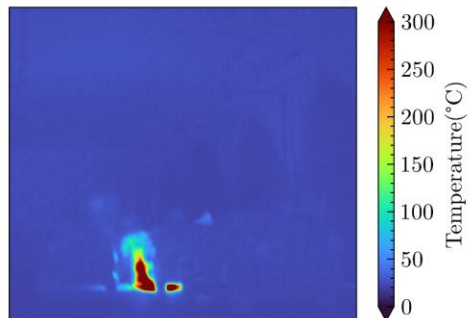
5 min after system activation



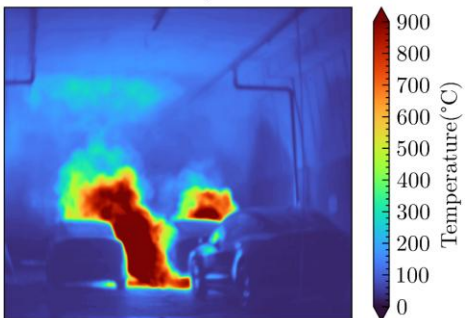
10 min after system activation



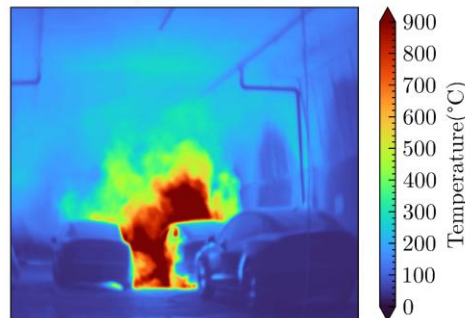
5 min before thermal runaway



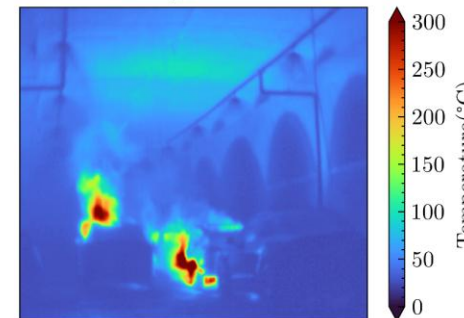
Thermal runaway occurrence



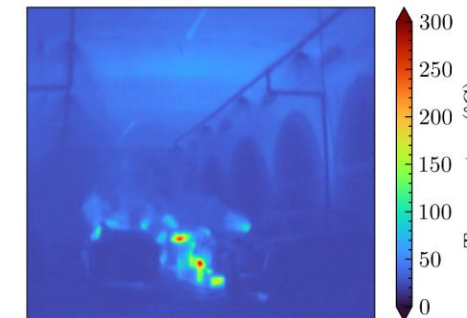
Before system activation



5 min after system activation



10 min after system activation

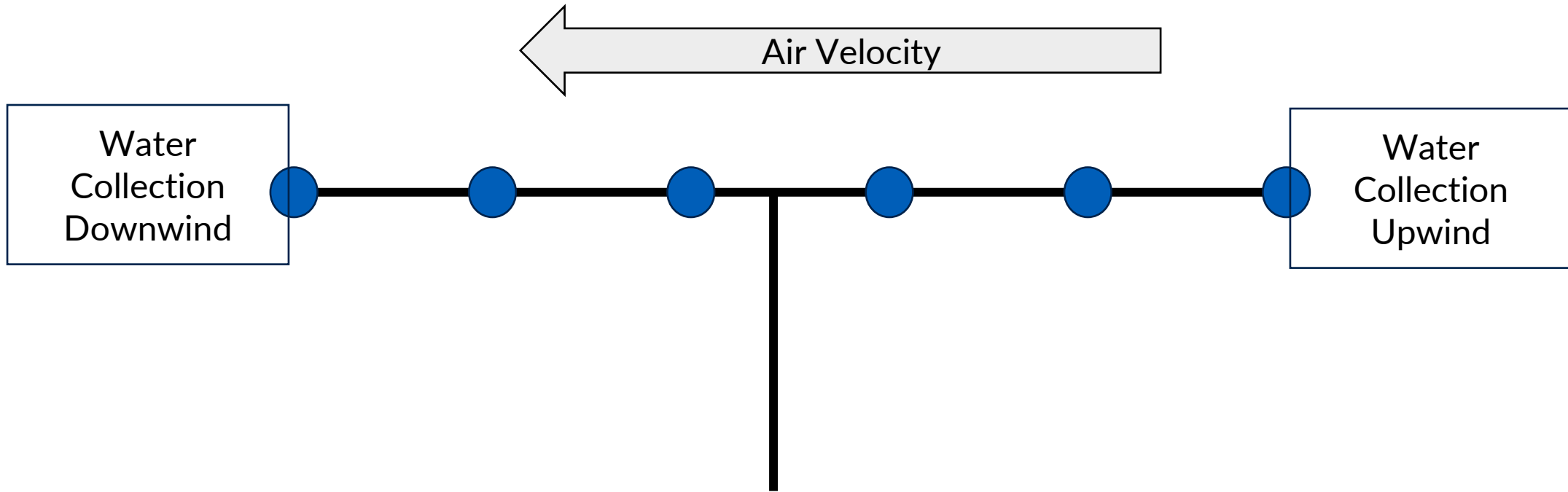


# Air Velocity vs Discharge Pattern

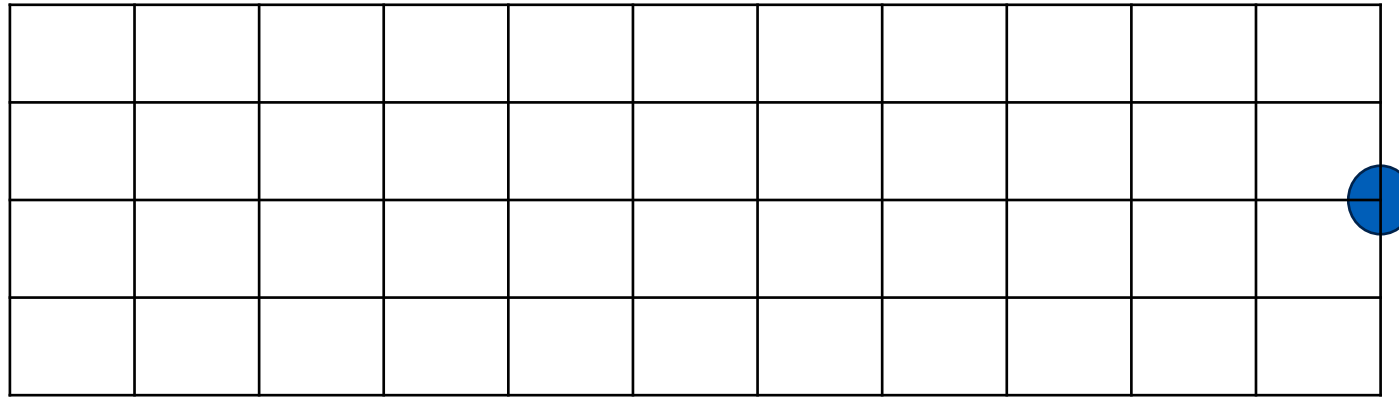




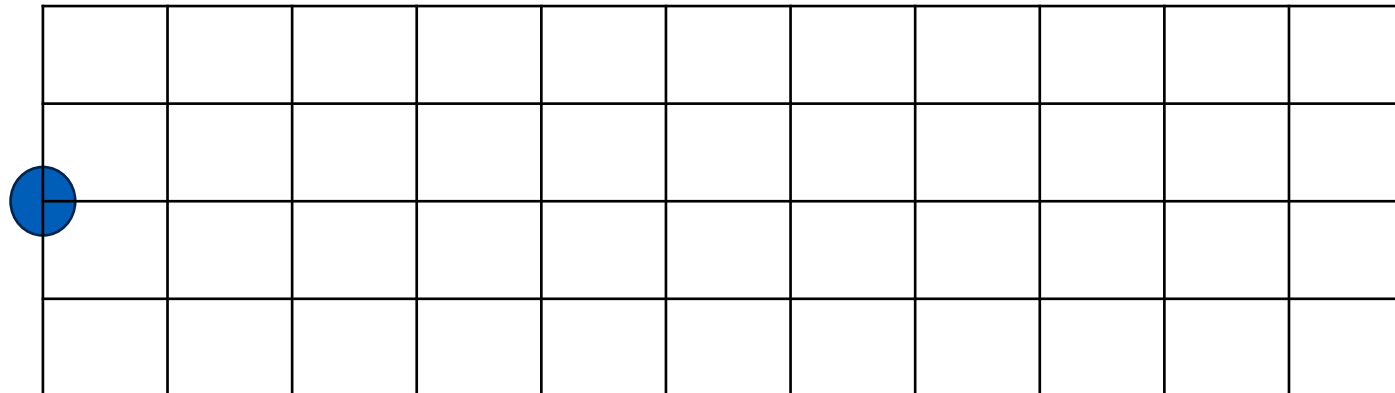
# Nozzle Arrangement

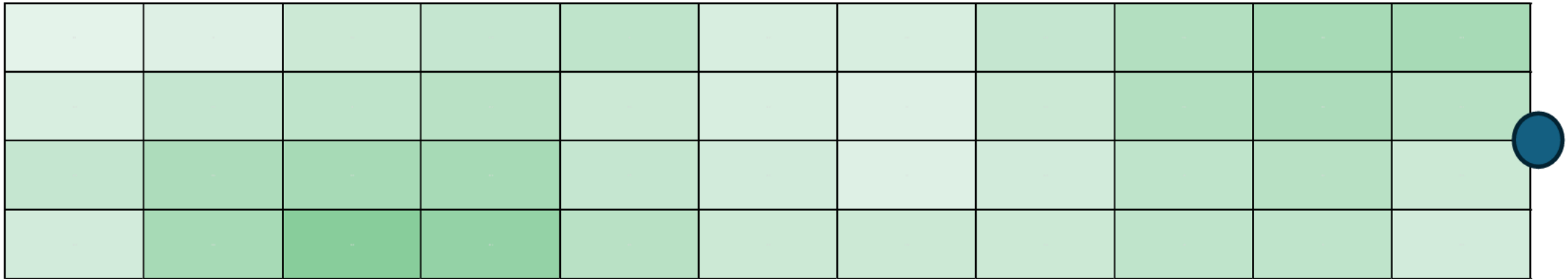


### Water Collection Downwind



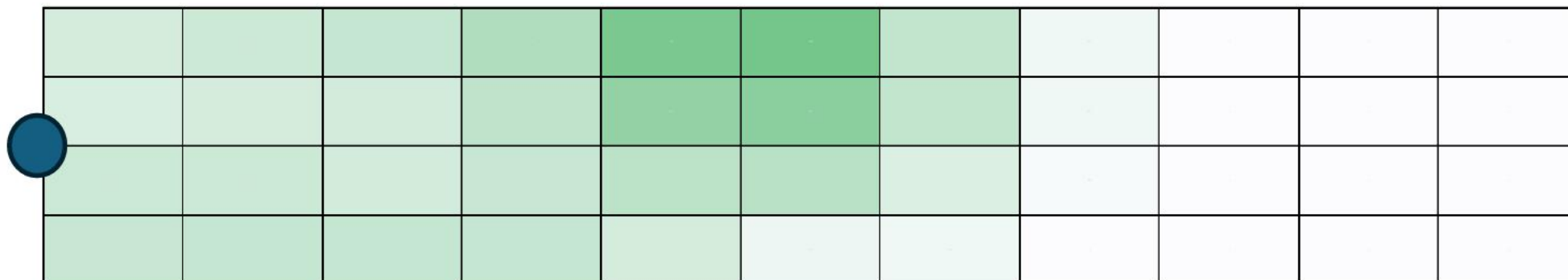
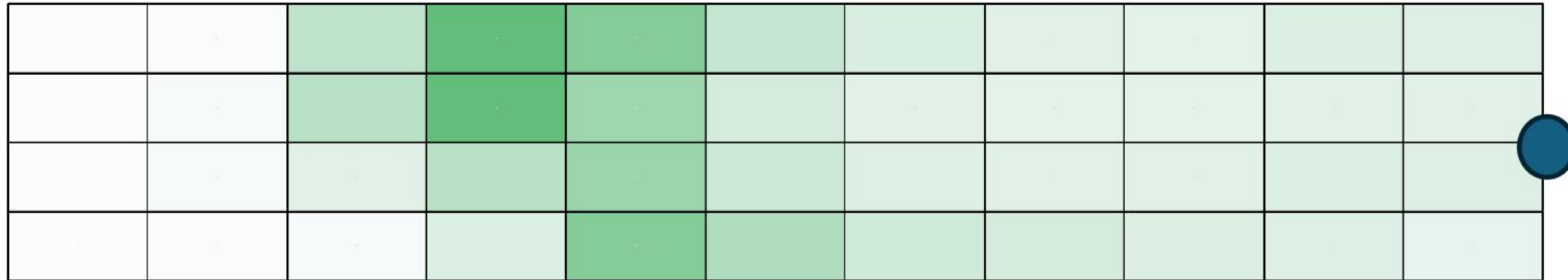
### Water Collection Upwind





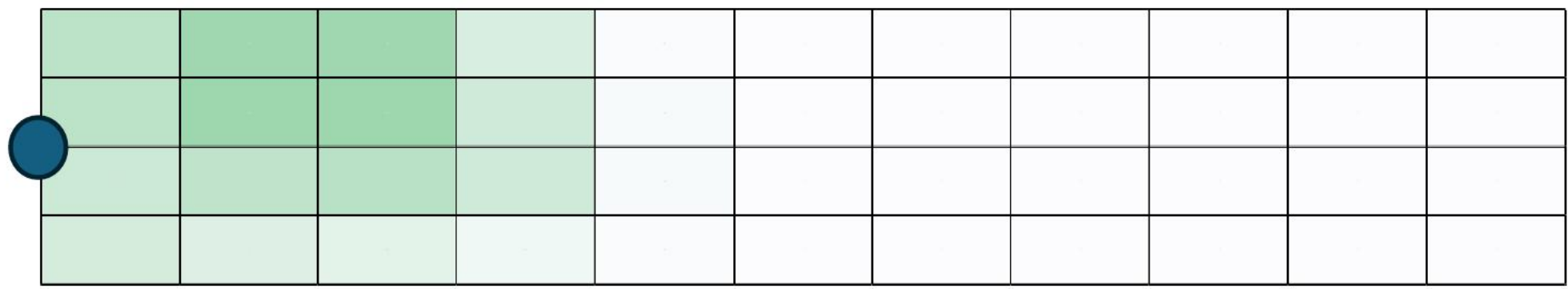
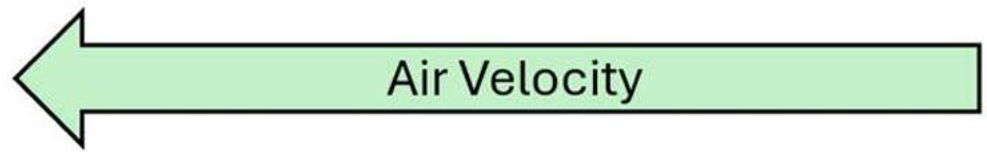
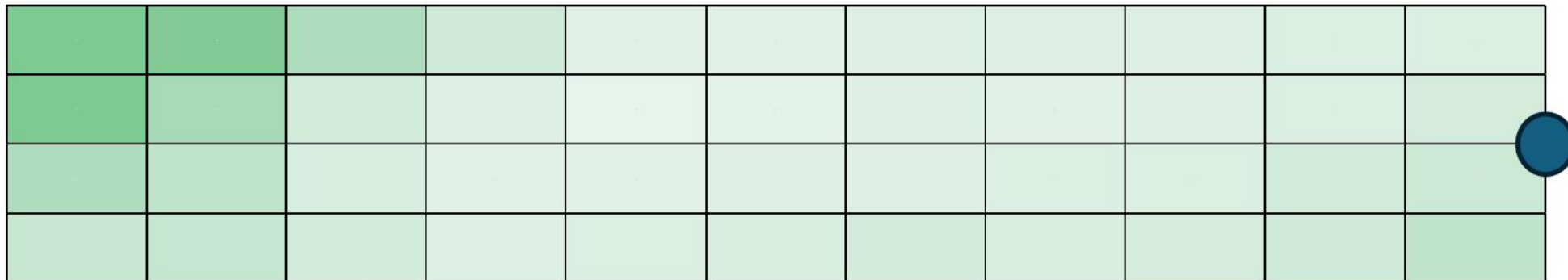
- Although ventilation was turned off around 1.4 m/s of natural ventilation could not be eliminated due to environmental conditions

# 3 m/s Forced Ventilation





# 4.5 m/s Forced Ventilation







# Recommended Valving

- Depending on the tunnel application any of the Deluge Valve options could be used.
  - DDV Remote Resetting Pressure Reducing
  - DDV Remote Resetting
  - DDV Deluge
  - DDX Deluge
- Due to the length or elevation change associated with tunnel applications the **pressure reducing** function may be required.
- Also, in many large tunnel applications a remote command center is part of the fire protection plan. The **remote resetting** function is available in these cases.
- Depending on the width of the tunnel and the zone length, valves ranging from 4" (100 mm) -6" (150 mm) sizes are generally appropriate.



# Solenoid Valve

- **Latching Style Solenoid Valve** - Latching style solenoid valves require an impulse to change state, accommodations must be made with the control panel
  - Burkert Latching Solenoid, 300 psi rated (for FM systems)
- **Non-Latching Style Solenoid Valve**- Non-latching style solenoid valves are normally closed and open upon energizing the 24 V circuit. Upon loss of power the solenoid will return to the closed state.
  - Skinner/Parker Non-latching Solenoid, 175 psi (for UL systems)
  - Skinner/Parker Non-latching Solenoid, 300 psi (for UL systems)



# Acknowledgments



**Reliable<sup>®</sup>**





# Large-Scale Fire Testing of Electric Vehicles in Tunnels



**Phil Friday, P.E., FSFPE**

Vice President, Product Technology

[pfriday@reliablesprinkler.com](mailto:pfriday@reliablesprinkler.com)

+1-678-640-0591