

HELLISH TEST ENVIRONMENT CONTAINED



The durability provided by hot dip galvanized (HDG) steel is proving its mettle in withstanding exposure to fire, water and

chemical residue that is all in a day's work at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's (MFB) Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre.

Located in Craigieburn, north of Melbourne, the facility provides fire fighters and all other Victorian emergency management with modern training facilities and infrastructure to train together in realistic emergency situations.

The centre has areas that simulate the situations emergency services personnel typically face which include fires at a searching collapsed buildings, carrying out road rescues and an emergency in a railway tunnel.

Within the facility is a large seven-story prop complete with car park offering emergency training for high-angle and aerial rescue.



*The Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre in action.
Photo courtesy of Major Projects Victoria.*

Internally the building is fitted out with various fires and smoke spread situations that a fire fighter would encounter in a city multistorey building. The petrochemical plant was nearly entirely constructed from HDG steel whilst 88 percent of all buildings, including all handrails, had some HDG component with 280 tonnes of steel in total.

This job is unique in that it is believed to be the first project of this sort to use HDG steel to such an extent.

Odd shaped handrails were specified which required precision handling to ensure venting, minimize draining and distortion issues as well as enhance aesthetics.

Being involved from the design stage with the architect and fabricator, the galvanizer could ensure all members were designed with HDG in mind and the facility met MFB requirements the first time with regard to fit and finish. The good working relationship was also maintained from early in the project with the engineers, transport companies and riggers.

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This project was the winner of the Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM) 2014 Project of the Year and 2014 Construction / Engineering project over \$100 million. It was also a GAA 2014 Sorel Award finalist.

PROJECT TEAM

Developer/Owner: Metropolitan Fire Brigade

Client advisor: FIDUN

Architect: Woods Bagot

Project Manager: Major Projects Victoria

Builder: Leighton Contractors

Steel Fabricator: Structural Challenge

Specialist Fire Services: HAAGEN

Engineering Services: Umow Lai

Hot Dip Galvanizer: Kingfield Galvanizing.