

CASE STUDY



STRUCTURAL DRYING: FAST RECOVERY NEEDED AFTER NFL STADIUM IS WATER DAMAGED NASHVILLE, TN

BACKGROUND

Just days before the most important game of the year, Tennessee Titans management was thrown for a loss, when a pipe break at Adelphia Stadium flooded more than 200,000 sq. ft. of interior space.

The high pressure water main spilled an estimated 50,000 gallons onto the 150,000 sq. ft. fourth level club area, which then rained down on other facilities including radio network offices, administrative offices, and a post game interview room.

“When I arrived on the scene, our people were sloshing around in two inches of water,” said Bill Dickerson, Tennessee Titans general manager for facilities. “With thousands of fans, CBS TV, and the national sports press corps converging on the stadium on Sunday, we were under great pressure to have our facilities ready for the game.”

A disaster by any standard, Titans management needed a “Hail Mary” recovery with just three days until the American Football Conference playoff game against the Baltimore Ravens.

Called at 8 a.m., Munters rushed drying experts to the scene to assess the damage. By noon, a fleet of equipment was moving towards Nashville. At 7 p.m. dehumidifiers were running with more on the way.

THE PROBLEM

In the spotlight for one of football’s most important events, Titan management had a three-fold problem: 1) Be ready at game time to accommodate thousands of die-hard fans 2) conduct cleaning and repair activities during drying efforts, and 3) protect the stadium from the long-term complications of water damage.

“Our image was at stake,” recalls Dickerson. “We had national television exposure with the playoffs and after the game the press would want to use the interview room for post-game discussions. We needed to be back to normal at game time, no excuses.”

“From a business perspective, one of our highest priorities was putting the high end concession area back in operation before the game,” said Dickerson. “We expected more than 6000 fans to use this area, spending over \$100,000 on food purchases during the game. Our fans expected to find these food services in place when they came to the playoffs.”

“From an operations point of view, I needed to work on cleaning and repairs, while the drying was undertaken. I also wanted a thorough drying job, that would eliminate any long-term repercussions,” said Dickerson.



THE SOLUTION

Titan management huddled and then went into their “two-minute drill.” Recognizing that they would need extraordinary capability to put them back in business for the Sunday playoff game, they called Munters.

Munters had technical advisors headed to Nashville an hour after the call. Meanwhile, operations people began loading equipment onto trucks and getting ready to come to the stadium.

Munters’ game plan was to have a significant amount of equipment at the stadium and running that day. This would start the drying. Then, a second shipment would arrive the next morning, increasing the drying power to the level needed to finish in the two days left before kickoff.

Once on the scene, Munters placed a group of M-20 dehumidifiers outside the stadium. This centralized system pumped more than 30,000 cubic feet of dry air into the water damaged areas every minute! Beyond this another M-20 supplemented by 80 smaller dehumidifiers and a half-mile of ductwork addressed other areas in the stadium.

The M-20 is a large industrial dehumidifier that Munters has created for fast action at water disasters. It is easily transported to the site, can be stacked to conserve space when in operation, runs on multiple utilities and is quickly set up.



In the main concession area, a Munters technician places air movers to help circulate the dry air throughout a 150,000 sq. ft. open space. By game time, Munters had to have this massive area dry for thousands of Titans fans who expected to have lunch there before kickoff.



Dry air was brought into the concession area using light weight tubing, which can be quickly unrolled and then is inflated by the dehumidified air pumped through it. Hundreds of yards of tubing were needed to concentrate air at the wettest spots for fast drying.

While the drying continued around the clock, so did the other recovery efforts. “There was no time for Munters to finish, before we started our work,” said Dickerson. “Munters knew how to handle that; they built their drying system so we could work alongside them to repair and clean the damaged areas.”

By Saturday, it was clear that the stadium would be ready for the game, but Dickerson had other concerns.

He knew that if all of the moisture is not removed after a water-damage event, wallcoverings begin to loosen, paint blisters, and mold and mildew begin to form. Many times, when drying is not thorough, major reconstruction must be done to reverse new damage and to eliminate odors and health concerns arising from biological growth deep within the walls.

“Because of measurements taken by Munters, we knew moisture was still in hidden places,” said Dickerson. “So, we asked Munters to tear down their system, and move their equipment to the back of the parking lot until after the game was played. Then, an hour after the game was over, Munters set up again to continue the drying.”

“Throughout our emergency, Munters knew exactly what to do and how to do it,” said Dickerson. “When they arrived, they were real pros. They took control, were very organized, and professional in every way. You could tell it was not their first “game.”



Grouped together outside, the fleet of large dehumidifiers was configured to funnel air into three main delivery ducts running up the side of the building. The ducts then went inside the building to different water-damaged areas.

THE BENEFITS

■ Fast Response

With more than 30 offices in the USA and Canada, Munters will respond fast to any emergency. Our experts know how to access your water damage problem and can build a system that starts the drying within hours of your call. In less than 24 hours, Munters had a massive installation at Adelphia Stadium.

■ A Diversified Fleet

Munters has the largest fleet of water damage equipment in the world. That means we will have the right equipment to cost-effectively dry your water damage. At Adelphia Stadium, Munters used its high powered M-20 dehumidifiers in combination with smaller equipment to get the job done fast.

■ Munters Joins Your Team

At the stadium, Munters built a drying system that permitted other clean up and repair work to be undertaken simultaneously. Munters seeks to understand your objectives and to work with you to meet them.

■ Technical Knowledge

Munters uses instrumentation that can measure the moisture that is deep inside materials or captured in hidden cavities. At the stadium, there was still moisture to contend with at game time, so Munters came back after the game to make sure no future problems would arise from mold and mildew growth.

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