

# Surface Prep on Crane Beam over Paper Machine Wet-end

*Contractor uses Sponge-Jet® abrasive blasting system to strip dried pulp fiber, acid residue and failing paint from crane beam over the wet-end of paper machine*



Nearly 560m<sup>2</sup> (6,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) of an overhead crane and its support beam was scheduled for cleaning, stripping and repainting in a Canadian paper mill. The crane's substrate had failing paint, dried pulp fiber and corrosive chemical deposits, which needed removal. Maintenance engineers specified a Near White, NACE No.2 (SSPC SP-10) surface cleanliness and a 75-micron (3-mil) profile.

During this 48-hour period, other trades were also scheduled to perform repairs and upgrades. The contractor was able to complete the stripping process in-line with the paper machine running. The decision to blast over the paper machine while it was in operation, was based a few process characteristics:

- **Low Dust** - As porous Sponge Media abrasives flatten on impact against the substrate, they trap surface contaminants that normally become airborne dust. This dust-suppressing quality of Sponge Media particles allows blasting in close proximity to sensitive equipment. Tarps were successfully used to keep the paper machine free from removed paper fiber, coating chips and blasted abrasive media (the paper machine was able to continue operation).

- **Operator and Workplace Safe** - The pliant nature of Sponge Media abrasive absorbs potential rebound energy, lowering media ricochet. Combined with Sponge Media abrasive's low dust attribute, the process causes less injuries and nearby trades can work uninterrupted (surrounding maintenance teams were able to continue their upgrades and equipment maintenance).

The repainting of the crane parts was concluded within the scheduled 48-hour period. The plant supervisor was pleased with the result and how non-invasive the abrasive blasting process was. The contractor continues using Sponge-Jet abrasive blasting systems in this plant as well as other pulp and paper mills.



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