

Case Study: BlazeMaster® CPVC... The Right Choice for a New Construction Project



The BlazeMaster® Fire Sprinkler System is enjoying tremendous success in the Broward County, Florida School System since Blazemaster® CPVC was written into the school system's specification for use in light hazard areas including air plenums in early 1995. At the present time there are a number of schools under construction using the BlazeMaster® fire sprinkler system.



Prototype Elementary School R-91 is one of these schools. This school is a one-story building of 110,000 square feet built of concrete block, concrete roof and steel bar joists. The sprinkler contractor, Francis Engineering Inc., selected for this project, has been using BlazeMaster® pipe and fittings for several years in both new construction and retrofit installations. Mr. Francis has enjoyed tremendous success installing BlazeMaster® fire sprinkler systems and was quite anxious to tackle a school project such as R-91. According to Mr. Francis, "I would not have been able to even consider the use of BlazeMaster® pipe and fittings for this project had it not been for the efforts of Noveon's consultant to the sprinkler industry, Leon Benlolo, who was successful in getting the BlazeMaster® pipe and fittings written into the Broward County School Board Specifications."



Because of the tremendous demands associated with a school project, such as time constraints, speed of installation as well as the need to meet various deadlines, Mr. Francis felt that by using BlazeMaster® pipe and fittings he could overcome the demand placed upon his installers. According to Mr. Francis, "Once the initial design problems were resolved, I was able to take advantage of the many benefits of using BlazeMaster® pipe and fittings. It's easy to work with, the installation went smoothly, changes were easily made at the job site compared to steel and I was able to stay ahead of the schedule which allowed for the other trades to catch up."



Mr. Gary Lederman, project superintendent for Francis Engineering, was very pleased at how smoothly and quickly the installation progressed. "My fitters love this stuff. The pipe went up quite quickly and easily and the new one step cement allows for faster cure times and lowers cost compared to the old two step solvent cement method."

Ms. Elvira Pita, P.E. with the mechanical engineering firm of Fraga Engineers, assigned to this project stated that "this is the first school project using BlazeMaster® pipe and fittings that I have been involved with and I am quite impressed with this product and its benefits. I'm looking forward to designing other schools with it."

Mr. Francis stated that "a cost savings was realized on this project which would not have been realized with steel pipe and most of the savings was in labor and design."