



Fireplace Investigation, Research & Education Service
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FIRE SERVICE, TECH-NOTE # 03

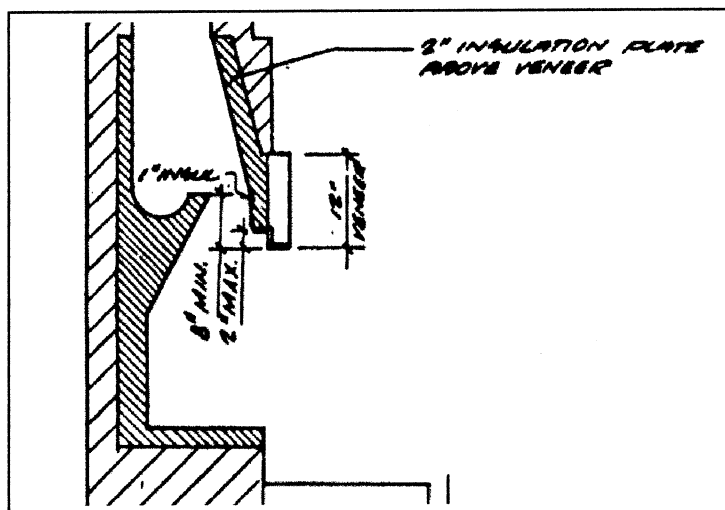
RE: Rampart General Pre-Cast Concrete Fireplace Inspection Memo

There is one area of the Rampart General Pre-Cast Fireplace that is overlooked more times than not. This location is called the "Insulation Plate". The "Insulation Plate" is located directly above the fireplace opening starting at the lintel bar, passing through the throat and ending in the smoke chamber at the base of the flue liner, (see detail below).

The "insulation plate" is a maximum two inches in thickness and is a weak point on the fireplace. We have discovered vertical as well as horizontal cracks that pass through the plate into the wood framed wall. This condition may allow the passage of heated gases and products of combustion into the wall area. This may cause ignition of the combustible framing with the use of gas or solid fuel. There may be no other signs of damage to the fireplace, yet the "insulation plate" may have failed. This damage may be as small as a hairline crack or it may include delamination and shifting of material. All cracks have a tendency to pass through the insulation plate and can be confirmed at the bottom edge.

The Rampart General Fireplace Specifications, (and the ICBO ES Report # 2076-P) states, **"CRACKS OR PUNCTURES EXTENDING COMPLETELY THROUGH A WALL OF THE FIREBOX AREA, THROAT AREA, OR CHIMNEY SECTION ARE NOT SUBJECT TO PATCHING"**.

These Specifications have been generated by the Fireplace Manufacture and supported by both the Municipal and Superior Courts of California. Any deviation from these specifications will require engineering and appropriate testing by an approved agency.



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