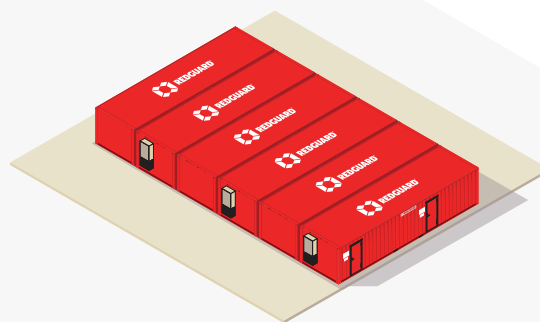


SOFT-SIDE BLAST TENT



BLAST-RESISTANT BUILDING



MATERIAL / STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

Usually loose steel support beams, and fabric tent walls

Steel support beams, steel walls, welds are reinforced and welded by a certified welder.



PRESSURE WAVE

Claims that pressure wave is "diluted" by tent. However, this claim is speculative in nature. A blast event measured at 1.5 PSI can cause serious internal injuries and death.

A blast-resistant steel building offers greater protection from the pressure wave caused by the blast event, and protection from bodily harm.



PROJECTILES (INTERNAL)

Pressure wave can cause risk of debris and projectiles within the tent, as pressure passes through the fabric. The pressure wave affects all materials inside.

All materials inside the building are thoroughly vetted for use in a blast-resistant environment. Properly designed blast-resistant buildings have solid walls that limit and deflect the pressure felt by its occupants.



PROJECTILES (EXTERNAL)

There is no proof how a fabric blast shelter would react in response to heavy objects blown into a fabric structure. After blast events, large debris and objects have caused serious damage even outside the designated blast zone.

Blast-resistant buildings offers greater protection from the effects of external shrapnel, up to, and including ballistic resistance, in some units.



BALLISTIC RESISTANCE

Ballistic resistance is offered, but only in panels which could leave a great deal of the fabric structure vulnerable to puncture.

Blast-resistant buildings can be designed specifically with ballistic resistance. This coverage protects all walls, ceilings, and even the welds.



API RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

API RP 756 covers the use of shelters, such as tents, but reminds that their use should be minimized near process areas. It also suggests that non-process hazards could also present risks to tent occupants.

API RP 752 & 753 provide guidance for managing risks in permanent and portable buildings. Buildings described in these RPs are specifically designed to resist significant blast loads.



RISK OF COLLAPSE

Tents constructed of heavy materials to accommodate blast resistance can introduce dangers from tent collapse due to extreme weather, and from falling objects.

In a blast-resistant building with a low or medium response rating, the risk of collapse will not be an issue. This indicates that damage after a blast event is low to medium, with no danger of collapse.



VERSATILITY

Large open areas are the norm, however, round ceilings and side walls create limitations on the usage of space. For safety, there will be large areas inside the perimeter designated as "no use zones."

Modules can be combined to create large open floor plans or, buildings can be sectioned off with walls for multiple uses. There aren't any "no-use zones" in a blast-resistant modular building.

It's important to consider the differences between a soft-sided blast tent, sometimes called an air-shield, and a steel blast-resistant building. When staging a hazardous worksite the differences can be critical, since even areas outside of the blast zone can be subject to large pieces of debris that travel outside of the "danger zone".



In most blast events, the heavy steel materials used onsite become projectiles and are sometimes more dangerous than the blast wave itself.



Fabric of any kind will be very little protection against the weight of debris and the sharp edge of metal sheeting.

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