BLACKBIRD FOR TRAINING

Blast-Resistant Structural Design for Oil, Gas & Petrochemical Facilities

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Barcelona (Spain)

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Introduction

Blast-resistant structural design for oil, gas, & petrochemical facilities is a critical engineering discipline focused on protecting industrial infrastructure from accidental explosions. Facilities handling flammable gases, volatile liquids, and high-pressure processes face inherent risks that can generate severe blast loads. Structural failure under such conditions may result in catastrophic consequences, including loss of life, operational disruption, and extensive financial damage.

Effective blast-resistant design requires more than conventional structural calculations. It demands a deep understanding of dynamic loading behavior, pressure wave propagation, material response under high strain rates, and compliance with recognized engineering standards. This course provides a structured technical framework that integrates blast load assessment, structural response analysis, and performance-based design methodologies.

The content connects engineering theory with applied industrial practice, enabling accurate evaluation of new projects and existing facilities. It emphasizes minimizing progressive collapse, improving structural resilience, and aligning engineering solutions with safety governance requirements.

Course Objectives

- Analyze the physical characteristics of industrial blast loads.
- Interpret pressure-time histories and impulse effects on structures.
- Differentiate between static and dynamic structural response.
- Apply recognized blast load estimation methodologies.
- Design reinforced concrete elements for dynamic pressure resistance.
- Strengthen steel structures against impulsive loading.
- Evaluate progressive collapse risks and mitigation strategies.
- Assess structural performance using performance-based criteria.
- Conduct structural vulnerability assessments for existing facilities.
- Apply numerical modeling for time-dependent structural response.
- Interpret engineering standards related to blast-resistant design.
- Prepare technical evaluation reports supporting engineering decisions.



Course Outlines

Day 1: Fundamentals of Blast Loads and Structural Behavior

- Types of industrial explosions and blast scenarios.
- Pressure wave characteristics and duration effects.
- Load transfer mechanisms to structural systems.
- Energy absorption and ductility concepts.
- Dynamic response of frames and load-bearing elements.
- Case study review of structural failures caused by explosions.

Day 2: Risk Assessment and Blast Design Standards

- Identification of credible explosion scenarios.
- Estimation of blast intensity using analytical approaches.
- Review of applicable engineering codes and guidelines.
- Determination of required protection levels.
- Integration of risk assessment outcomes into structural design.
- Practical exercises on equivalent static load conversion.

Day 3: Design of Reinforced Concrete and Steel Structures Under Dynamic Loads

- Design principles for blast-resistant concrete walls.
- Strengthening beams and columns for impulsive effects.
- Connection detailing to prevent progressive collapse.
- Reinforcement ratio calculations based on performance targets.
- Allowable deformation limits under high-pressure loads.
- Applied design example of an industrial control building.

Day 4: Numerical Modeling and Structural Performance Evaluation

- Time-history analysis principles for dynamic response.
- Development of structural simulation models.
- Interpretation of displacement and stress outputs.
- Sensitivity analysis of loading and boundary conditions.
- Comparison between simplified and advanced analysis methods.
- Practical modeling exercise for a representative structure.



Day 5: Assessment and Retrofit of Existing Facilities

- Methodology for structural inspection and evaluation.
- Identification of critical vulnerability points.
- Selection of appropriate strengthening techniques.
- Development of blast mitigation improvement plans.
- Review of integrated industrial case studies.
- Final technical assessment based on applied project analysis.

Why Attend This Course: Wins & Losses!

- Strengthens capability to design safer industrial structures.
- Reduces risk of catastrophic structural failure.
- Enhances compliance with engineering standards.
- Improves infrastructure investment decisions.
- Develops advanced dynamic analysis skills.
- Supports effective coordination between engineering and safety teams.
- Increases structural reliability in high-risk facilities.
- Improves technical reporting and decision support capacity.

Conclusion

Blast-resistant structural design for oil, gas & petrochemical facilities represents a specialized and technically demanding field within industrial structural engineering. The ability to design and evaluate structures capable of withstanding explosion-induced loads is fundamental to maintaining operational continuity and safeguarding critical assets.

This course provides a comprehensive framework that connects blast load characterization, dynamic structural behavior, reinforced concrete and steel design principles, and numerical performance evaluation. By progressing from fundamental theory to applied case analysis, it establishes a structured methodology for mitigating progressive collapse and enhancing structural resilience.

The integration of risk assessment, compliance standards, and engineering judgment ensures that design decisions are both technically sound and aligned with broader safety governance objectives. Strengthening expertise in this discipline directly contributes to improved infrastructure durability, informed investment planning, and long-term industrial risk reduction.

