

FMEA of Cable Failures within a Fire PSA

PSAM 9, Hong Kong, 2008/05/19

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- Definition of Cable Failure Modes and Required Cable Data
- Methodology of the Cable FMEA
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Past Activities (1)



- Probabilistic studies for selected fire sequences in PWR
- Probabilistic study for fire in PWR-1300 (KONVOI)
- Several reviews of Fire PSA by GRS
- A systematic methodology for probabilistic fire risk analysis was developed by GRS
 - Analysis of fire ignition, fire propagation
 - Screening out of compartments, components and cables not relevant for the CDF
 - Adaptation of the basis PSA considering fire induced failures
 - Calculating the fire caused CDF by a newly developed fire analysis code

Past Activities (2)



- A Fire PSA was conducted for a BWR-69
 - For undisturbed full power state
 - Constrained to PSA level 1
- One result was that cable failures constitute the dominant contribution to fire CDF
- Due to limited information about cable types, structures, shielding, and laying conservative assumptions had to be taken about cable failure modes and their corresponding functional impact on the attached components



- Improving the current approach by the analysis of fire impact on electrical components
- Developing a methodology based on FMEA to assess fire related cable failures in a more realistic way
 - Determine which information about cables is necessary
 - Determine cable failure modes (e.g. from experiments) and their effects on the attached components
- Performing a pilot FMEA for all cables in a selected representative compartment of a NPP



- All cables within the NPP are recorded in a database
- The database includes information about:
 - Plant identification number of cable, code for cable function, description of cable type and voltage level
 - Description and plant identification number of the component supplied, controlled or monitored by the cable ("associated component")
 - Plant identification numbers of the compartments passed through by the cable
 - Plant identification numbers of the components attached physically to the cable
 - Laying of the cable

Cable Failures



- Failure criteria
 - Critical temperature in compartment depending on cable insulation material and cable function
- Failures types
 - Short to ground
 - Hot short
 - Interruption of cable
 - Multipolar short
- Experimental results for cable failures
 - Results from iBMB of Braunschweig University of Technology show, that conductor to conductor short occur first, later shorts conductor to tray





Generic FMEA





Generic FMEA



• Step 2: Analysis of circuit fault modes



Testing the Cable FMEA for a Selected Compartment

- Selection of a representative compartment in the reactor building of the reference NPP
 - Includes 432 cables with 932 individually identified functions



Testing the Cable FMEA for a Selected Compartment

- The selected compartment contains cables for power supply, feedback and I&C
- The selected compartment was chosen because it contains a large set of different cables



Database for FMEA (1)



- Contains all relevant data on cable
- Contains information on components
 - Description, type, status in undisturbed power state
- Shows information about next but one neighbors of a selected cable
- Is used to record the results of the FMEA

Database for FMEA (2)

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Results of the FMEA



- First results show some effects which up to now were not considered in Fire PSA which can be relevant for both the initiation and the control of an event sequence
 - Fire induced cable failures of feedback signals (mostly multiconductor cables) can negatively affect the functional control groups of PSA relevant components
 - Failure of power supply cables for the control circuitry (e.g. for I&C cabinets) which are routed via subdistribution boards, can result in common-cause failures
 - Fire induced spurious signals and failures of the power supply and I&C of the ventilation systems have to be investigated with regard to their Fire PSA relevance
- The results of the cable FMEA can not only be used for Fire PSA but also for other internal or external events which might cause cable failures



- Up to now only qualitative results
- Use of existing or new experiments to determine probabilities for the different cable failure modes
 - Starting from the probability of a fire in a compartment using the conditional probability of a certain cable failure in case of fire the probability of the component effect can be deduced
- Assessment of the different cable failure mode probabilities to determine the probabilities of fire induced
 - Initiating Events
 - Failures of system functions
- Evolution of cable failures over time

Conclusions



- Detailed information about all safety relevant cables in the NPP are vital for Fire PSA
- Pilot application of FMEA of all cables in a representative compartment showed the feasibility of the approach
- Up to now only qualitative statements about failure modes and effects have been obtained
- Next step will be an extension to gain quantitative results