



SA-19-89

DATE: December 12, 1989

TO: All Facility Safety Heads
All Facility Coordinators

FROM: 429/Safety Manager, Head, Safety Engineering Branch,
SSQRD

SUBJECT: Troubleshooting - Lessons Learned

The angle of attack system on the Hypersonic 20 inch Mach 6 Blowdown Tunnel (Bldg. 1247D) recently experienced a runaway condition during troubleshooting, resulting in a significant malfunction that led to \$19,300 of equipment damage.

Investigation concluded that a lack of proper system drawings in combination with inadequately reviewed troubleshooting techniques led to this mishap. The lesson learned is that systems should not be installed without approved drawings. Facility Safety Heads and Facility Coordinators should be particularly sensitive to this and take the necessary steps to insure that system drawings exist.

Drawings present valuable information to aid in troubleshooting, and afford involved workers a basic understanding of the operation. Troubleshooting any system without proper documentation leaves much to guess work. Experienced personnel and existing proven methods of troubleshooting will reduce the potential for this type occurrence and the possible system damages that can result.

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