

Fog Humidifier Keeps State Printing's Presses Rolling Smoothly

By Joe Vigil, Public Information Officer, GSD

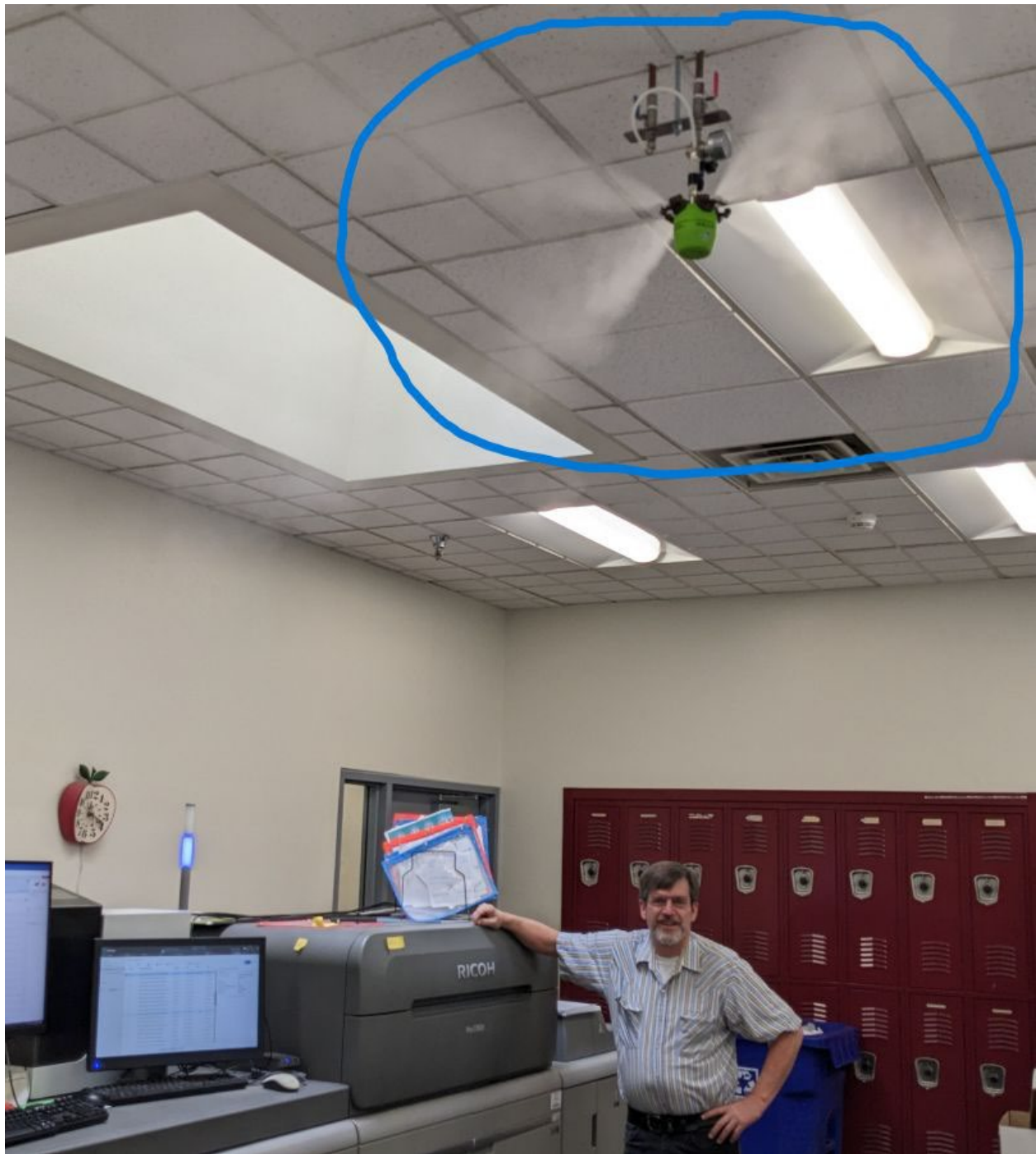


In the arid, high desert climate of Santa Fe, dry air can wreak havoc on our State Printing and Graphics Shop's delicate printing equipment. The SP&G team has taken a major proactive step to ensure top-quality printing results and smooth operations with the installation of a state-of-the-art humidifier system. By carefully controlling the humidity levels inside the press room, the team is not only protecting their digital presses, they are also preventing paper shrinkage, static buildup, and misfeeds while keeping their production efficient and print quality sharp - no matter how dry it gets outside.

"My two Ricoh digital presses were engineered, manufactured and tested in Japan, a tropical island which has high humidity," said Rob Newlin, director of State Printing. "So, when they ship them here, we sometimes run into quality issues because our humidity runs about 10 percent and when I have quality issues and need to call tech support, the first question they ask is, "what's the humidity level in the room?"

When Newlin reports 10 percent, they say, "that could be a big part of your problem right there."

To remedy that, Newlin went to the industry's Print show in Nevada in search of an efficient solution.



"I saw this AKIMist "E" dry fog humidification system, so I bought it, and our Facilities Management Division was gracious enough to install it for me," said Newlin. "Instead of the press room running at 10 percent humidity, it is now running at 50 percent, which is going to help the print quality and the longevity of the cartridge inside the press."

Previously, Newlin was using two Grainger industrial humidifiers which was not efficient in reaching the appropriate humidity level.

"I was filling all four jugs of water in these Grainger humidifiers every morning and by noon, they would be empty and the humidity in the room would barely nudge up to about 15 percent," said Newlin. "So, I'm lugging water twice a day in these big jugs, trying to get the humidity level up."

The new system saves Newlin all that time, effort and is easy to operate and maintain.

"There is the control box and in the corner of the room is a sensor that senses the humidity level in the room," said Newlin. "We currently have it set to 55% and once it reaches that level, the system and green light will stop."

Newlin explained that the water, which is already plumbed to the wall of the press room, goes thru reverse osmosis, then goes through a water softener, just like someone may have in their home. Then it goes to a pressurized water tank from where it then feeds the humidification system where it's just air blowing out and then water comes out as a created mist.

At an investment of only \$10k, the new AKIMist "E" dry fog humidifier system provides a 'mistical' solution to keep the presses rolling at maximum operational efficiency in our dry climate.