

Gilles Amirault, P.Eng.

Principal Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Gilles Amirault is a senior forensic engineer with 20 years of experience. His specialty is in mechanical and materials failure analysis and high-rise mechanical system quality assessments, and has managed teams on complex multidisciplinary failure investigations for several years. Gilles oversees operations in Oak's Calgary office. Gilles' expertise includes:

- Mechanical Failures
- Material Failures, including metal, composites, plastics, rubber, and glass
- Managing complex and multidisciplinary failure investigations
- Plumbing and piping
- High rise mechanical systems
- Sanitary and storm line failures
- Fractography
- Industrial machinery
- Oil and gas production facilities
- Pipeline failure analysis
- Pipeline leak detection analysis
- Fire suppression systems
- Mechanical testing
- Vehicle component failures
- Pressure vessels
- Hydraulic failures

EDUCATION

B. Eng. Mechanical Engineering, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

2004

- Graduated with High Distinction

Postgraduate courses (2010-2012) in Materials Engineering, Polymer Engineering, Finite Element Analysis, Pipeline Corrosion, Pipeline Coatings

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA)

Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC)

ASM International (formerly American Society of Metals)

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

WORK HISTORY

2020 – Present: Founder and Principal Engineer, Oak Forensic Engineering Ltd., Calgary, AB

Founded in 2020, Oak Forensic Engineering is a failure analysis and prevention engineering firm with offices in Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta. Primarily servicing Western Canada, the firm's focus is on mechanical failure analysis, materials failure analysis, and structural engineering.

2018-2019: Assistant Vice President, Envista Forensics, Calgary AB

SAMAC Engineering was acquired by Envista Forensics in 2018. Being with SAMAC prior to the acquisition, Gilles' new role was to oversee operations for Western Canada for Envista Forensics, consisting of two offices (20 people). Disciplines included mechanical, materials, electrical, structural, fire origin and cause, vehicle accident reconstruction, and biomechanical.

In addition to the management role, was often lead or providing guidance to the lead investigator of large complex losses throughout Western Canada.

2015 – 2018: Director of Property Division, SAMAC Engineering, Calgary, AB**2004 – 2015: Failure Analysis Engineer, SAMAC Engineering, Calgary, AB**

Helped grow business and mentor the staff, starting from 2 engineers in 2005 to 14 staff and 4 consultants when the firm was sold in 2018. The company had steady and stable growth during those years.

Responsible for overseeing many of the large losses (\$2M and above) in mechanical/materials engineering, or as lead investigator in multidisciplinary cases. Examples of these investigations can be found below under "*Sample of past investigations*".

Responsible for the management and mentoring of many of the other engineers within the firm in a variety of disciplines, both junior and senior staff members.

SAMPLE OF PAST INVESTIGATIONS**Mechanical and Materials Investigations**

- Oil pipeline leak, \$10M, Fort Saskatchewan, AB 2016
- Ammonia leak from ice arena rink chiller, triple fatality, Fernie, BC 2017
- Hot air balloon failure, double fatality, Surrey, BC, 2007
- QA/QC on mechanical system installation of a 35 story residential tower, Calgary, AB, 2018
- Amusement ride failure investigation with 10 people injured, Calgary, AB, 2010
- Dry sprinkler line failure, \$2M, Edmonton, AB, 2015
- Gasoline line failure, \$1M, Hanna, AB, 2012
- Arena ammonia chiller failure, \$1M, Calgary, AB, 2018
- Hydroelectric generator failure, \$1M, BC, 2019
- Various high rise plumbing failures, Calgary, AB
- Beef processing plant hanging conveyor collapse, \$2M, Brooks, AB, 2008
- 36" pipeline rupture, Buffalo Pond Lake Saskatchewan, 2008
- Gas leak resulting in hotel explosion, \$1M, Lake Louise, AB, 2009
- Riser failure in 56 story tower, \$2M+, Calgary, AB, 2015
- Hydrogen pipeline built of CPVC/fiberglass failure investigation, Grande Prairie, AB, 2015
- Several fiberglass pipeline failure investigations, Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta, 2010 to 2015
- Hydraulic ram failure on oil sands excavator, Fort McMurray, AB, 2014
- Oxygen compressor failure in pulp mill, Prince George, BC, 2018

Lead in Multidisciplinary Investigations

- Oil and gas fired heater failure, \$75M+, Fort McMurray, AB, 2017 (Process Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Materials Engineering)
- Fiber-optic line investigation, Northwest Territories, \$50M+, 2016 (Geotechnical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering)
- Incinerator failure at LPG facility, \$2M, Delta, BC, 2017 (Process Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Materials Engineering)
- Assessment of steel structure for fire damage, \$4M, Fort McMurray, AB, 2017 (Structural Engineering, Materials Engineering)
- Storm and sewer line failure, \$3M, Calgary, AB, 2017 (Geotechnical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering)
- Electrical switchgear failure investigation in high rise, \$25M, Calgary, AB 2012 (Electrical Engineering, Fire Cause and Origin, Mechanical Engineering)

CONTINUING EDUCATION / ADDITIONAL TRAINING

ASME Section VIII Div 1 – Design and Fabrication of Pressure Vessels, 5 day course, Sacramento, 2015

ASME 31.3 – Process Piping, 5 day course, Nashville, TN, 2014

Numerical Methods for Engineers, University of Calgary Graduate Course, Calgary, AB, 2012

Polymer Engineering, University of Calgary Engineering Course, Calgary, AB, 2012

ASME Bolt Design and Joint Assembly, 5 day course, San Francisco, CA, 2011

Corrosion Science in the Pipeline Industry, University of Calgary Graduate Course, Calgary, AB, 2011

Finite Element Analysis, University of Calgary Graduate Course, Calgary, AB, 2011

Introduction to Metallurgical Lab Practices, 3 day course, Ohio, 2010

Materials II, University of Calgary Engineering Course, Calgary, AB, 2010

Pipeline Coatings, University of Calgary Graduate Course, Calgary, AB, 2010

Commercial Vehicle Braking Systems, 3 day course, Michigan, 2009

PC-Crash Advanced Training Workshop, 4 day course, Vancouver, BC, 2009

CDR Operator and Analyst Course, 5 day course, Baltimore, MD, 2008

Tire Technology, 2.5 day course, Akron, OH, 2008

Motorcycle Crash Investigation, 5 day course, Calgary, AB, 2007

Pedestrian Collision Investigation Course, 5 day course, Calgary, AB, 2007

PC-Crash Advanced Training Workshop, 2 day course, Vancouver, BC, 2006

Vehicle Accident Reconstruction Methods, 2 day course, Detroit, MI, 2006

Commercial Vehicle Collision Reconstruction, 5 day course, Calgary, AB, 2005

PATENTS

Tatsu, C.; Amirault, G.; and Zdravkovic, D. *Purge Valve Including a Permanent Magnet Linear Actuator*, 2004

Tatsu, C.; Amirault, G; Zdravkovic, D, Weldon, C.; and Modien, R. *Purge Valve and Method of Purging Using an Annular Permanent Magnet Linear Actuator*, 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Variability of Yaw Calculations from Field Testing, 2009-01-0103, Society of Automotive Engineers

Lead author of a peer-reviewed paper published by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) based on two years of high-speed vehicle testing. The paper discusses the accuracy of the yaw formula at higher speeds, the optimal chord length to be used, and the use of the centre of gravity method.