

Yash Palawat, PE, MS, LEED AP BD+C | Forensic Mechanical Engineer

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Yash Palawat is a licensed Professional Engineer in multiple jurisdictions throughout the United States. With multiple years of experience in forensic engineering, coupled with a foundation in mechanical, plumbing, and fire protection building design, Mr. Palawat brings a comprehensive and technical perspective to every project. His diverse background allows for a deep understanding of mechanical systems from both design and failure analysis standpoints.

Mr. Palawat has conducted detailed investigations into failures and incidents involving heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and fire protection systems. These cases often require meticulous site inspections, as well as laboratory-based examinations of physical evidence to determine the root causes and contributing factors. His work is guided by a thorough knowledge of jurisdiction-specific building codes and standards, National Fire Protection Association guidelines, and engineering principles, ensuring that analyses are grounded in the frameworks that govern safety and performance.

Prior to his forensic work, Mr. Palawat gained several years of experience in the design of mechanical systems for various types of commercial and residential buildings. This experience honed his technical skills and provided an in-depth understanding of construction practices and code compliance. His ability to bridge the gap between design intent and real-world system performance is critical in evaluating failures.

Mr. Palawat's expertise includes:

- Mechanical system and water loss failures
- Fire protection system forensics
- Code and standard analysis and interpretation

Licenses and Certifications:

Professional Engineer (Additional states available upon application):

Connecticut, 38106

New Jersey, 24GE06087100

New York, 107793

Pennsylvania, PE096292

National Engineering Registration, NCEES, 15-821-29

LEED AP Building Design + Construction, U.S. Green Building Council, #11148392-AP-BD+C

Project Experience:

The sample projects here outline the types of projects and losses Mr. Palawat regularly investigates. For further information or additional examples, please contact EFI Global.

The Manhattan at Times Square Hotel, New York, NY
Water Loss Investigation

Investigated the scope of damages from a water loss that reportedly affected the property's mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection equipment. Inspected the site, interviewed the claimant and contractors, reviewed maintenance records, building codes and standards, and weather data related to the loss.

Junior's Cheesecakes, New York, NY
Mechanical Failure Analysis

Investigated the condition of mechanical equipment and piping within the property. Examined the components and plumbing system, reviewed the preventative maintenance records and equipment specifications, and researched building codes and standards related to the loss.

The Cookie Factory, Troy, NY
Mechanical and Fire Protection System Failure Analysis

Conducted engineering failure analysis of the commercial heating system and damages to the fire sprinkler system. Performed a site inspection, reviewed fire department reports, obtained contractor invoices, and researched equipment manuals.

SHI International, Piscataway, NJ
Equipment Failure Analysis

Analyzed damages to equipment for potential salvageability. Researched equipment specifications and standards and made comparisons to similar equipment. Reviewed purchase orders and shipping history to evaluate the condition of the equipment over time. Provided expert opinion to client.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Forensic Mechanical Engineer, 2024 – Present

Jaros, Baum and Bolles, Senior Project Engineer, 2022 – 2024

Buro Happold, Plumbing and Fire Protection Engineer, 2018 – 2022

A&J Consulting Engineering Services, Project Engineer, 2015 – 2018

Formal Education:

Master of Science, Civil Engineering, Columbia University, New York, NY 2022

Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 2015

Specialized Education/Training:

Utility Damage Review Training, 2025
Water Heater Investigations in Water and Fire Losses, 2025
Heating Degree Days, 2025
How to Properly Document a Vehicle and Vehicle Related Sampling, 2024
Equipment Consulting Training, 2024
Fraudulent Water Losses, 2024
High-Rise Installations, 2022
The Environmental and Operational Benefits of R744 Heat Pump Water Heaters, 2022
Water Heater System Design, 2022
Rainwater Harvesting, 2022
Guide to Siphonic Drainage, 2022
Guidelines for Best Practices for Water Quality Post COVID-19, 2021

Affiliations:

Member, U.S. Green Building Council