

# Rocky Mountain Log Homes

Location: Montana Industry: Manufacturing  
Building Series: TITAN / Utility  
Building Sizes: 80' x 160' / 26' x 32' / 26' x 60'



## Log Building Manufacturer Re-builds From Fire

Since 1974, Rocky Mountain Log Homes has helped thousands of new homeowners and entrepreneurs create their dreams. The Rocky Mountain manufacturing plant is located one hour outside of Missoula, Montana and employs nearly 100 people. As the worlds only log home facility utilizing robotics in manufacturing, the company has grown to become one of the largest manufacturers of log buildings in North America. Jim Schueler, owner and president of Rocky Mountain Log Homes, started the company to build secondary log homes, but as the company grew and the manufacturing process became more refined, the customer marketplace expanded. Today Rocky Mountain has played a part in hundreds of commercial building projects: restaurants, golf clubhouses, churches, libraries, motels, ski resorts, ... the list goes on.

Recently the company suffered a manufacturing set back. A fire destroyed their manufacturing plant and all the equipment inside. The 12,400 square foot wood and steel structure took only a few hours to be completely destroyed by fire. The blaze proved to be a pre-cautionary learning lesson for the company. "The biggest lesson we learned was not to consolidate all of our equipment in one building," says Scott Hagen, Rocky Mountain plant manager. "An electrical fault started the fire in the attic, so by the time we discovered the fire it was out of control. All of the equipment was destroyed, the total loss was in the range of one million dollars."

A long delay would greatly impact the company's bottom line. "Everyday is money. We needed a building quickly to get our manufacturing plant back into production," says Hagen. Over the span of four days, the Rocky Mountain Log Home executive team researched and made the decision to purchase a steel framed fabric covered building manufactured by Cover-All Building Systems from Bill and Michelle Abney of Cover-All Buildings of Montana. "The buildings are structurally sound and Cover-All Montana was able to deliver a building within a tight timeline," says Hagen.

Another reason Rocky Mountain Log Homes chose Cover-All was for fire safety reasons. "A lot of our manufacturing equipment was destroyed by large falling objects as the building caved in. We didn't want a building that was going to contribute to a fire like our old manufacturing facility did," says Hagen. "The steel walls contained the fire, it became like a 'blast furnace' inside. The heat literally bent and melted one inch thick steel. The only way to get at the fire was to pull away the outside steel on the sides of the building. The wood trusses of the roof contributed to the blaze and eventually caved in and crushed most of the equipment inside."

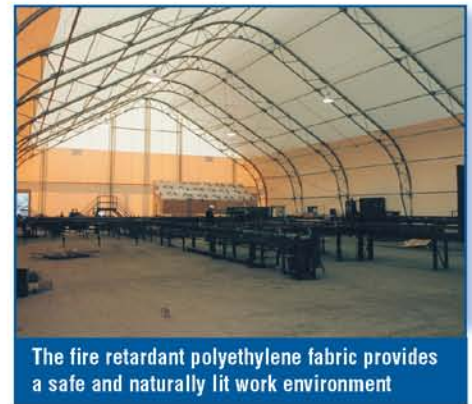
"What we discovered about the Cover-All buildings is that the fire retardant (polyethylene) fabric doesn't catch on fire; it simply melts away from the flame and extinguishes itself. If a fire should break out in the Cover-All buildings, it will be easier to control and far less equipment damage should occur by falling debris," says Hagen.

The large clear span space, the natural light and the ability to deliver and erect a building in a tight timeline made perfect business sense to the Rocky Mountain executive team. Within the span of three weeks a Cover-All TITAN series building and two Cover-All Utility buildings were ordered and delivered to the site. Install of the new 80 by 160 foot manufacturing facility took only 4 days. The two Utility buildings are 26 by 32 and 26 by 60 feet in dimension and house rounding machine equipment. All three buildings were installed on newly poured cement pads with in-floor radiant heating.

In the span of five weeks since the fire, Rocky Mountain Log Homes was back in production. "The change in our work environment is completely different, the natural light is a huge bonus," says Hagen. "In our old manufacturing facility, we had to use different forms of artificial light to see the grade of the logs, it was always difficult to judge if what we were seeing was accurate. In the Cover-All buildings, we have all this natural light, grading logs is no longer guess work."



A Cover-All® TITAN and two Utility buildings were ordered and delivered within three weeks



The fire retardant polyethylene fabric provides a safe and naturally lit work environment



The two Cover-All® Utility buildings house rounding machine equipment



Installation of the new 12,800 square foot TITAN manufacturing facility took only four days

## Building Highlights

### Building Fabric

Fire retardant polyethylene fabric provides a safe work environment The translucent qualities of the fabric eliminates the requirement for artificial lighting to accurately grade logs.

### Customization

The 26' x 60' Utility building was customized to allow side wall access for loading and unloading of logs. All three buildings were installed on cement pads with in-floor heating.

### Installation

Buildings were delivered to the site within 3 weeks. Installation of the 80' x 160' Cover-All TITAN manufacturing facility took only 4 days.