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Q. What is the function of the forced draft fans at Holyrood? Are they needed to
evacuate smoke?

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A.

Forced draft (FD) fans are used primarily to provide combustion air to the unit furnaces at Holyrood. However, during the events on January 11, 2013, the lack of FD fan availability during a fire demonstrated the FD fans' ability to quickly disperse smoke from the powerhouse. Since the FD fans normally draw on air from inside the plant, any smoke released into the powerhouse would be cleared very quickly with the fans operating. These fans, however, require a 4 kV power source. There are a number of much smaller 600 V roof and wall exhaust fans utilized for normal plant ventilation that can assist in this function as well.