

On the Make

EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

Jason Burroughs has carved out a global niche in blast-resistant structures

>>> AFTER AN EXPLOSION AT A TEXAS refinery killed 15 people and injured 170 in 2005, Jason Burroughs realized the oil and gas industry needed blast-resistant structures that could be placed in explosion-prone areas.

A year later, Burroughs founded Paramount Structures in Calgary and he has since guided the company to a global reputation for building structures that will survive massive explosions. The simplest model looks like a sea can and goes for around \$100,000 depending on size and customization, but the company has ventured into more complex buildings of up to 6,000 square feet that can house large lunchrooms, site security operations or the like.

Burroughs spent years engineering the shelters, scouring the globe for ideas and inspiration. "The Chinese had one material – magnesium oxide – that I was very interested in," he says. "That helped create the fire-resistant, mold-resistant barrier."

The company also builds more conventional structures with the same resistance to fire, water and mold. Burroughs says they're durable enough that they could help alleviate one of Canada's most intractable problems. "It's one possible solution to the housing crisis on First Nations," he says. "We are communicating with a number of First Nations right now."

Paramount now has module yards in Spruce Grove and Sherwood Park, 11 full-time employees and revenue of \$8.8 million. It placed 12th on this year's Fast Growth 50 list.



PHOTOGRAPH RYAN GIRARD



Jason Burroughs at Paramount's yard north of Sherwood Park, where the company is building blast-resistant structures for the North West Redwater Partnership's Sturgeon refinery