



NEWS RELEASE

34 Miles Out to Sea, Nowhere to Hide from the Sun: Tint World® and XPEL Team Up to Protect Historic Frying Pan Shoals Tower

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Wilmington, N.C. Franchise Owner Leads One of the Most Unusual Window Film Installations Helping Preserve a Decommissioned Coast Guard Tower Turned Eco-Tourism Landmark

SAN ANTONIO--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **Tint World® Automotive Styling Centers™** recently completed one of the more unconventional installations in the brand's history: applying protective window film to **Frying Pan Shoals Tower**, a decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard light station located 34 miles off the North Carolina coast and accessible only by helicopter or boat. The project marks a unique collaboration between Tint World® and **XPEL** (Nasdaq: XPEL), a global leader in protective films and coatings.

Tint World® Automotive Styling Centers™ and XPEL recently applied protective window film to the Frying Pan Shoals Tower, a decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard light station located 34 miles off the North Carolina coast, now operating as a nonprofit eco-tourism destination. The XPEL window film helps the off-grid structure block a significant amount of solar heat to conserve battery and generator power.

Frying Pan Shoals Tower operates as a nonprofit eco-tourism destination, and the off-grid structure is exposed to constant, unfiltered Atlantic sun. Led by Tint World's Wilmington

franchise owner **Robert Harman**, the Tint World® crew installed **XPEL Dark Neutral 15% Window Film**

throughout the tower's windows over several days, transporting equipment by helicopter and working around ocean weather conditions two stories above open water.

"If we can tint this, we can tint anything," has become something of an unofficial motto for the team since returning from the project.

Why an Offshore Tower Needed Window Film

Frying Pan Shoals Tower runs entirely off-grid, relying on battery and generator power for everything from lighting to climate control. With no shade, no landscaping, and near-constant sun exposure over open water, solar heat gain had become a constant drain on the structure's limited power supply. The newly installed window film blocks a significant amount of solar heat before it enters the building, which helps the tower's HVAC system work less to keep the space livable, and in turn helps conserve battery and generator power. For a facility that cannot simply plug into the grid, that efficiency gain matters.

"When consumers or, in this case, a nonprofit team, are trying to get more life and more value out of a structure they already have, window film is one of the most overlooked tools available," said **Charles Bonfiglio, Founder and CEO of Tint World®**. "This project is an intense example, but the principle is the same one we bring to every vehicle and building we work on: protect what you already have and make it perform better."

A Job That Tested More Than Skill

Getting the job done required more logistics than most installations Harman's team has tackled. Equipment, film, and crew had to travel by helicopter to reach the tower, and the work hours were squeezed into a narrow window shaped by ocean weather. There was no running to the supply store for a forgotten tool and no shade to escape the sun while working.

"Most people think of window tinting as something you do to a car in an afternoon," said **Harman**. "This job took days, a helicopter, and a lot of planning. But it is the same skill set and the same film technology, just applied somewhere nobody expects it."

Beyond the Ocean: Everyday Applications

While Frying Pan Shoals Tower is a notable case, the underlying benefits translate directly to homes, vehicles, boats, and businesses dealing with everyday sun exposure.

"Extreme environments are the best proof point for any film we make, and it doesn't get much more extreme than

an offshore tower with no shade for miles," said **Lindsay Parks**, XPEL's North American Sales Manager - **Architectural**. "Our Dark Neutral 15% window film is built to hold up under constant, direct sun while still rejecting a significant amount of heat, which is exactly what a remote, off-grid structure like Frying Pan Shoals Tower needs. Partnerships with networks like Tint World give us a front-row seat to the innovative ways customers are using our films every day."

XPEL window film products are designed to:

- Block 99% of harmful UV rays
- Reduce solar heat gain and ease the load on HVAC and cooling systems
- Protect interiors, electronics, and furnishings from sun damage and fading
- Improve comfort in vehicles, homes, boats, and commercial spaces
- Support long-term preservation of structures and vehicles exposed to harsh conditions.

For more information on Tint World® and its automotive and residential window film services, please visit **www.tintworld.com**. For more information on XPEL, please visit **www.xpel.com**.

About Tint World® Automotive Styling Centers™

Founded in 1982, Tint World® Automotive Styling Centers™ is America's largest and fastest-growing automotive accessories and window tinting international franchise, specializing in window tinting, protective films, vehicle wraps, ceramic coatings, automotive electronics, and vehicle accessories. Tint World® Mobile Services™ includes Residential, Commercial, and Marine window tinting films, solar films, decorative films, safety and security films, and protective ceramic coatings. Tint World® has locations across the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, with master franchise opportunities available worldwide. To find out more, please visit **www.TintWorld.com** or **www.tintworld.com/franchise-opportunities**.

About XPEL

XPEL is a leading provider of protective films and coatings, including automotive paint protection film, surface protection film, automotive and architectural window films, and ceramic coatings. With a global footprint, a network of trained installers and proprietary DAP software, XPEL is dedicated to exceeding customer expectations by providing high-quality products, leading customer service, expert technical support and world-class training. XPEL, Inc. is publicly traded on Nasdaq under the symbol "XPEL". To learn more, please visit **<https://www.xpel.com/>**.

Media:

Tint World

Cole Koretos

ckoretos@franchiseelevator.com

XPEL

Steve Janisse

sjanisse@xpel.com

Alex Bentzlin

abentzlin@xpel.com

Source: XPEL, Inc.