

NEAR MISS



On May 26, 2011 a non-injury accident occurred at a surface mine when an explosives fire occurred onboard a bulk explosives transport truck. The fire ignited inside the open day box used for transporting 35 cast boosters and their card board and plastic packaging. It was determined that this fire was ignited as a result of fly ash and or embers from an adjacent work area where trees and underbrush were being burned. The fire within the adjacent work area was 294 feet down slope from the truck. This area had received moderate winds this shift and smoke drift from the fire had been observed near the truck prior to the fire igniting. All miners were safely evacuated from the area and no injuries resulted from this accident.

Best Practices

- **NEVER FIGHT EXPLOSIVES FIRES; EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY**
- MSDS and manufacture information on handling and storage of all blast components must be followed and made a part of training. Personnel must ensure that explosives remain properly stored and should remain in a closed door day box until immediately before being used.
- Ensure that explosives and blasting areas remain a safe distance from open flames. Consider weather conditions (ex. Wind) when making these determinations.
- Designate an evacuation location to be used in the event of an explosives fire.
- Discuss Emergency Situations and Procedures in Safety Meetings on a regular basis.

http://www.msha.gov/district/dist_05/d5home.htm

