



Fire Protection

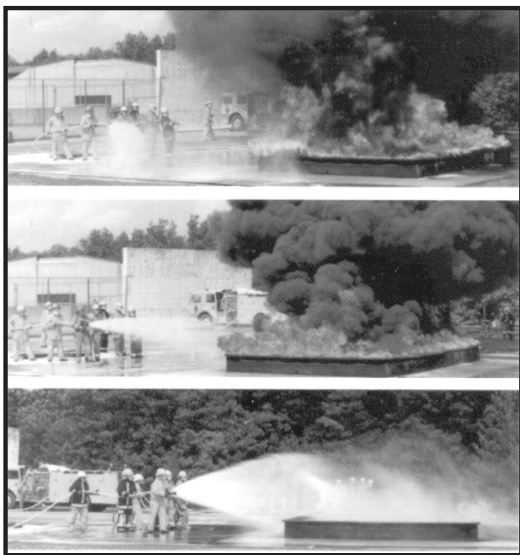
Best Practice Series BP-86

Some mines are planning on using fire brigades to respond to any mine fire that is not extinguished by the miners who initially discover the fire. These fire brigades typically are expected to use aggressive tactics. Proper training and equipment are critical to the safety and success of a fire brigade. Required training and planned fire fighting tactics must be part of the approved mine emergency evacuation and fire fighting program.

- **ALWAYS** train fire brigade personnel in the operation of all fire fighting equipment and in the tactics that they will be expected to use.
- **ALWAYS** provide fire brigades with the equipment necessary to fight a fire, based on planned tactics.
- **ALWAYS** provide a reliable means of communication with fire brigades and outby personnel.
- **ALWAYS** supplement training with in-mine practice.
- **ALWAYS** keep underground haulage switches that are designated for fire car and fire equipment storage free from obstructions and operating properly.
- **ALWAYS** know the quantity and types of fire fighting equipment stored on a fire car.
- **NEVER** allow untrained personnel to respond as part of a fire brigade.
- **NEVER** allow fire brigades to make ventilation changes without prior approval.
- **NEVER** allow fire brigade members to participate in any activities unless they have passed a mine rescue physical or its equivalent.

It Happened . . .

- A fire occurred near an underground battery charging station after a three-day idle period. Mine examiners encountered thick smoke four hundred feet from the station. Fire fighting personnel indicated the fire was out of control and the area was sealed. The cause of the fire was undetermined.
- A fire believed to be the result of spontaneous combustion was discovered in a mine entry. The fire quickly spread inby and filled the area with heavy smoke and dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Twelve fire brigade and mine rescue teams failed to extinguish the flames. Seals were built and the fire area isolated. Remote sampling of the area ensued.



Example of Fire Brigade Training

Arrive Home Alive

**U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
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