



Fire Hazard Alert



This fire hazard alert pertains to BASF Meyco® MP 367 polyurea silicate foam product.

On March 16 and 17, 2010, a mine operator was testing BASF's Meyco® MP 367 polyurea silicate foam in an abandoned conveyor belt entry of an underground coal mine in Alabama. The purpose of the test was to assess the effectiveness of the Meyco® MP 367 foam as a possible method for isolating a mine entry in the event of an emergency.

The test was conducted to determine whether the Meyco® MP 367 foam could be used in a large volume application by pumping the product from the surface through a vertical borehole into the mine to the test site. The Meyco® MP 367 foam is particularly designed for injection application for rapid cavity filling and for coal and rock consolidation in mines and tunnels. Meyco® MP 367 foam injected into voids and cavities immediately expands to up to 30 times its original volume and sets hard in minutes.

The first day of testing occurred without incident. During the second day; however, a fire developed approximately 5 feet from the right rib of the belt entry at the base (mine floor) of the foam application. The fire propagated over 200 feet burning conveyor belting, timber supports, coal and the foam. The fire took over 90 minutes to extinguish. There were no injuries.

The cause of the fire involving the Meyco® MP 367 foam has not yet been determined. MSHA, in collaboration with both BASF and the mine operator, is continuing to investigate the incident to determine the cause of the fire. At this time, there is no assurance that Meyco® MP 367 foam does not pose a fire hazard in coal mines for use in remote sealing applications, including roof-rib injection and consolidation. Until the investigation of the incident is completed and the cause of the fire determined, MSHA is issuing this Fire Hazard Alert to make mine operators aware of potential fire hazards associated with the use of the Meyco® MP 367 foam.