

## **FIRE ON BOARD EXPLOSIVE VEHICLE**

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The title of my paper should get the attention of every blaster in this room. It is something that we have thought much about over the years. It is something that we hear about once in a while when it happens to someone else.

We have all heard and read of the tragedy in Falmouth City, with the tremendous loss of life and property damage. After reviewing a video of the Falmouth City disaster, I decided that I had to do something to make sure that the same kind of accident did not happen at the mine where I was working and had the responsibility of drilling and blasting.

I drafted a plan that was approved by division management. With the help of the Mine Safety Manager, we met with outside units of firefighters, police and ambulance units that would respond to our mine in the case of a fire and implemented our plan. With the cooperation of the outside agencies, we felt that we had a good plan and everyone knew what to do in the event of a fire on board a truck carrying explosives.

When I left this employer and accepted my present position, I saw a need to develop this type of program for each of our mines. This is not always an easy thing to do. The program at one of our mines involves an interstate highway and two airports. This plan took a lot of time to finalize, and at times we wondered if it was all worth it. Well, I believe it was worth the time, energy and trouble. As a lot of you know, we recently had a fire on one of our trucks. We followed our guidelines, achieved our goals and hope that it never happens again, but if it does we will be better prepared to deal with it with what we learned from this experience.

This paper will state facts, what action we took and our future plans should this happen again. This paper is in no way to be construed to be used in any manner other than to make each and every one of you involved in blasting think about ways in which you can improve your operation in the area of safety. Some of our ideas are based on fact, and some are based on theories only.