

SAFEX

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INCIDENT NOTICE

(Kindly direct all correspondence to the Secretary General)

INCIDENT TITLE: Deflagration of PETN on Detonation Cord Extruder.

DATE POSTED 14 May 2019	REFERENCE IN19-07	SOURCE Austin Powder
INCIDENT OUTLINE		
When did it happen?	February 7, 2019	
Who experienced it?	Austin Powder Argentina	
Where did it happen?	La Florida plant	
What material was involved?	PETN dust	
What happened?	A small deflagration of PETN dust was noticed by the operator on top of the detonating cord extruder head.	
Why did it happen – theory?	Due to a high diameter reading of the 60 g/m cord, the automatic cutting mechanism was actuated and the cord was retracted from the extruder. Because of the high cord load and the fast movement, PETN dust from the open end of the cord was spilled reaching the extrusion head. It was identified that the temperature on parts of the outside of the extruder head was higher than the melting and deflagration temperature of PETN.	
What was the impact?	Nobody was injured during the incident. No significant material damage. Production was stopped until investigation had finished and identified issues had been resolved.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Enclosure Document reference (if any)

Subsequent report NO

COMMENT

Value of incident

Safety devices as diameter sensors and extraction cord system have to work properly for all cord loads. Temperature profile of heating systems such as the extruder should be verified and should be inspected on a regular base. Explosives dust is to be controlled also for potential release after safety a device has been activated. Hot surfaces are to be guarded properly.

Comment

DISTRIBUTED BY:

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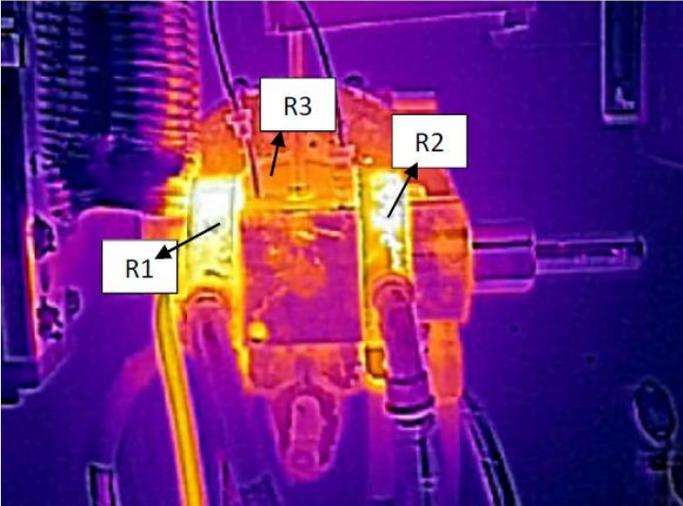
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ENCLOSURE

None



Temperatures above the deflagration point of PETN were found on the exterior of the extruder head.