

# WEST KNOX FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Wednesday, July 16, 2003

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 0730 hrs the Laurel Country 911 Dispatch Centre received numerous calls of explosions and fires at CTA Acoustics Plants in Corbin Kentucky. On the initial page of the call to the plant our department responded with 3 engines, 2 tankers and 1 rescue truck. While leaving my home which is about 1 mile from the plant (1.6km), I noticed heavy black smoke coming from that area. I notified Laurel Dispatch to page a second alarm call to Keavy Fire Department, London Cities ladder truck and for Laurel Country Fire Departments cascade truck.

Upon arrival at the plant I immediately took command of the scene and noticed heavy smoke and flames coming from the area of the production line, and found all employees coming from the building, many were burned. I then notified dispatch to set off a third alarm for Corbin Cities ladder truck, Woodbine and Oakgrove fire Departments and for all ambulances they could send to respond. We set up 2 triage areas for the victims and started a primary search of the building for other possible victims and started the initial attack on the fire using water and AFFF foam.

The fire was very intense and burning within 3 or 4 areas of the structure. We found from looking at the MSDS sheets that the materials within the burning structure were:

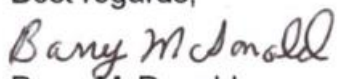
Silica Quarts Sand	Ammonium Stearate Aqueous
Polyvinyl Chloride Mixture	Foam Coating
USL 600 (oil)	Antimony Compounds
Phenolic Resin	Rhoplex Acrylic Emulsion
Kaolin Superwhite Clay	Ajack Black
Aluminum Oxide (Hydrated)	Polymeric Isocyanate
Decabromodiphenyl Oxide	Battery Acid (sulfuric Acid)

We had heavy fire going on for about an hours before we told to evacuate the building because of a possible explosion from inside the building of cyanide gas. After 30 inutes from the evacuation notice it was decided there was not going to be one, 9 an explosion) so we

went back into the building to fight the fire, but this time instead of AFFF foam we used the encapsulation multipurpose firefighting agent we had been given to trial. We poured the encapsulation agent into 3 different dump tanks we had set up and were pouring x1 5 gallon bucket , ( 20 litres) to every load of water.

The fire was extinguished after 25 minutes of using the encapsulation agent. We were truly amazed by the results of the encapsulation agents and have since ordered 20 buckets (100 litres), of encapsulation agent for our departments and replaced the remaining 29 buckets of AFFF foam held by the other departments with the encapsulation agent

Best regards,



Barry McDonald

Chief  
West Knox Fire Dept.

BJM