Growing & Stagnant Coal Inventories Create Hazards

Coal inventories across the US are at their highest volumes due to long term contracts that keep fresh coal coming while demand for electricity has been in a steady decline. As piles continue to grow they become increasingly difficult to maintain properly, resulting in "hot spots".

While these fires may be considered more of a nuisance in the yard, if hot coal is accidentally reclaimed and sent through the coal handling system to the silos it can very likely lead to a deep seated hot spot in a day silo or bunker. The situation can rapidly mature into a serious hazard to plant workers and production.

When hot, smoldering coal is reclaimed the potential for a dust explosion is ever present, and if coupled with a sub-par dust management program there is the very real potential for a cascade of dust explosions that threaten employee safety, plant productivity, and the plant structure itself.

Even small fires in the coal handling system can spread fast when not handled properly by untrained emergency response personnel or when monitoring systems fail to detect a heat source in the incipient stage. Sometimes, plant officials develop a false sense of security in their fire detection systems. Even if the system is successful in detecting a fire, it may not be able to suppress it effectively, leading to damage, down time, and a threat to the life safety of workers in the plant.

The Coal Handling System is the “achilles heel” of a coal-fired power plant. It is best protected with the combined ability to detect, prevent, and suppress fires and hot spots. Detection systems include CO monitoring and IR Black Body Scanners, prevention requires stringent housekeeping procedures, and suppression mandates the application of the most effective firefighting agents through accurate and reliable delivery systems.

Hazard Control Technologies, Inc. has developed expertise in power plant fire safety, and provides consulting, training, systems design and products that can greatly improve the safe and continuous operation of coal power generation facilities.

- F-500 encapsulator agent is the preferred and proven extinguishing agent for coal power hazards.
- DustWash concentrate is ideal for housekeeping, as it penetrates float dust while minimizing water needed.
- Delivery equipment, including F-500 Rapid Response Carts, Concentrate Control Systems, fire extinguishers, nozzles & monitors.
- HCT’s series of training courses are designed to enlighten the most experienced supervisors, engineers, operators.
  - The Power Plant Hazards Training is ideal for your responding Fire Department and covers everything from Combustible Dust Hazards to Transformer Fire Response.
  - Piercing Rod Training enables personnel to surgically extinguish burning coal in silos, bunkers, and piles.
  - Incipient Fire Brigade Training prepares first responders for rapid and decisive action.

Additional information and Testimonials are available upon request.