



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

R. JOHN VANSOLKEMA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

MIKE BURTON  
FIRE CHIEF

DAN NOORMAN  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

May 30, 2000

Hazard Control Technologies, Inc.  
150 Walter Way  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Dear Sir:

On May 19, 2000, at 1053 hours, the Grand Rapids Fire Department 911 center received a call from a local manufacturing company reporting a fire at its facility. A first alarm assignment of 2 engines, 1 ladder truck, 1 rescue squad, and a battalion chief were dispatched. The first arriving engine company was met by maintenance workers advising of a smoldering fire in a 20'x30' spray booth with a conveyer system. Heavy white smoke was emitting from the North and West doors and windows of the factory and an evacuation of the facility was in progress. Further, information was obtained from workers that the spray booth was shut down for maintenance to clean a 2-3 inch hard crusted accumulation of the spray product. This was being accomplished with a chisel and hammer method which apparently was not of a non-sparking material. Workers initially attempted to extinguish the fire with both dry chemical extinguishers and Co2 without success. Two of these workers were transported to a local hospital with severe respiratory distress. Below is a list from MSDS of the Known chemical make-up of the spray product that is used as a bonding agent to enhance paint adhesion to metal parts.


CARBON BLACK  
FORMALDEHYDE  
METHYL ISOBUTYL KETONE  
NAPHTHA LIGHT AROMATIC

PROYLENE GLYCOL  
METHYL ETHYL KETONE  
MONOMETHYLETHER  
TOLUENE

XYLENE  
ZINC OXIDE  
ETHYL BENZENE

It was determined that the product involved was primarily an inhalation hazard and that standard turnout gear with SCBA was appropriate for fire attack. Several attempts were made to extinguish the fire using conventional firefighting tactics with water application in both a fog and direct stream application. These attempts only appeared to have an oxidizing effect and accelerated the burning process. A third attempt was initiated using AFFF foam with no positive effect. A fourth attempt was made using a Hazard Control Technologies F-500 fire suppression agent, mixing 5 gallons of agent in 500 gallons of booster tank water yielding a 1 percent solution. The agent was applied in a ¼ fog pattern on all horizontal and vertical surfaces. Visibility immediately improved from near zero to good conditions, and the fire was completely extinguished within 1-2 minutes using a total of only 200 gallons from our booster tank. It was interesting to note that on this fourth attempt, we entered the fire space with a Cairns IRIS camera and the operator commented on how fast the white hot images turned black on his screen. F-500 was very effective in this instance when more traditional methods were not.

Sincerely,

  
Bart Perry  
Paramedic/Fire Captain

**SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES**