Raceway 5 at the Genesee Fairgrounds in Batavia, New York sponsors various motorcycle and sprint car races, stunt car exhibitions and tractor pulls. Crash Rescue at the track needed something to combat methanol fires. When driver’s lives are on the line, time is critical. They needed something that could extinguish multiple fuels, quickly. They chose F-500 Encapsulator Agent.

Vern Zuch is the Fire Rescue Crew Chief with the City of North Tonawanda Fire Department and has been working crash rescue at the track since 2004. Back then, they had an old tow truck converted to carry a water tank, pump and hose. As they added different classes of cars, such as sprint cars, they were suddenly faced with a new fuel to deal with, methanol. Dirt track races frequently have roll-overs with fuel spills and F-500 EA provided the speed of extinguishment and extra margin of safety needed to get the drivers out safely.

The rescue trucks currently carry five F-500 EA, 2.5-gallon fire extinguishers and 250-gallons of water, pre-mixed with 3% F-500 EA.

**CASE HISTORY**

**Pro-Stock Car Fire**

Before switching completely to F-500 EA, a Pro-Stock car had a left, rear rotor on fire. They applied dry chemical powder from an extinguisher, but it kept reigniting. Then, they applied a portion of a 2.5-gallon, F-500 EA fire extinguisher. It not only put the fire out, but the rotor was instantly cool to the touch and did not warp. The car finished the race.

**Sprint Car Fire**

A blown motor on the backstretch of the track started a methanol fire. They immediately sprayed the driver and cockpit with F-500 EA from a 2.5-gallon fire extinguisher. They fire was quickly extinguished. The driver was impressed that his car was not a total loss.

They have used F-500 EA at the track for years with many roll-overs and have never experienced a problem or burn injury. They noticed how the smell of burning methanol disappears in seconds as the F-500 EA is applied.

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