

Tara Mine Fire Incident April 2014

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TARA MINES



Vehicle Mine Fires in Ireland

A number of vehicle fires occur in Irish Mines annually, the majority of these are local events and are extinguished by the Vehicle Operator directly or through the Ansul Dry Powder Suppression systems on the vehicles.

The primary causes of the fires are:

- Hydraulic of Fuel Hose Failure
- Electrical short circuits
- Re-ignition of initial fires due to combustible liquids spraying on hot surfaces

Following three major fires on Toro Trucks in 1998 and 1999 an investigation resulted in a number of machine modifications

The Impact of these fires on the workforce were minimised by

- The use of Mine Refuge Bays
- The Professionalism of Irish Mines Rescue Teams

Tara Mine Fire April 2014

At 11.30 a.m. a fire developed on a Normet Shotcrete Rig

The Fire was reported at 11.35 a.m. and Stench Gas was released into the mine at 11:37.

By 12:10 all personnel underground were accounted for in the Refuge Stations except for the Machine Operator

14:07 Rescue Teams reach machine operator – he is alive and receiving treatment

14:30 Casualty on surface travelling to hospital

20:25 Emergency Stood Down

21:03 All Men on Surface



Joint Rescue Operations

All Tara Mines Rescue Teams responded to the incident but 5 members were in refuge stations as a result of the Fire

At 12.54 The Army Air Corp have rescue team personnel from Lisheen Mine ready to transport

15:15 Lisheen Mines Rescue at Tara Mines

15:55 1st Lisheen/Tara Team briefed and underground.

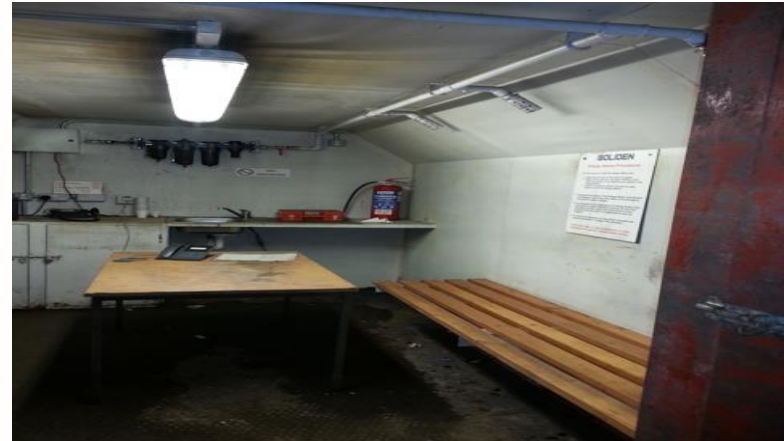
Local Fire Brigade delivered back up supply of Fire Fighting Foam when incident was reported

4 Rescue Teams deployed – 3 of which carried out 2 missions



Refuge Stations in Tara Mines

- Tara mines have 30 refuge stations and 52 Mini Refuge station (portable refuge) located in the mine.
- Each refuge station has supplies of bottled compressed air and breathing masks
- They can be positively pressured to prevent entry of smoke and toxic gases
- They can withstand fire for at least two hours
- Most have telephone communication
- They have a supply of drinking water
- Most have Sanitary facilities
- They have been used for periods of up to 10 hours without excessive discomfort



Actions By Tara Mines Following the Fire

Initial and Follow up Actions by Tara Mines

- Production was halted by the Mine for Two days and the workforce deployed to carry out housekeeping clean up
- Review and implementation of new housekeeping standards and a system for maintaining standards.
- Work is ongoing to Implement a system for personnel tracking.
- System for call out of emergency contact group and mine rescue team was updated and training sessions ran
- information/training sessions on lesson learned from this incident were given to underground workforce
- Tara purchased Thermal imaging equipment for Mine rescue team
- Training provided for emergency contact group and drills run more frequently
- Updated procedures and accountability for communication of the emergency message to the control group and mine rescue personnel.
- Periodic review and updating of contact lists and systems that store contact information including the list of external contacts.

Thank you

