ABSTRACT

Multiple iron dust flash fires and a hydrogen explosion at the Hoeganaes metal powders facility in Gallatin, TN. led to five fatalities and injuries to three works in January, March, and May of 2011. The CSB launched investigations for each occurrence and developed recommendations to address root causes. Unfortunately, after the second incident in March, and despite appeals to shut the facility and keep it shut until a more robust dust management system could be installed and implemented, the third incident occurred, which led to three fatalities. This presentation will examine the circumstances of each incident, the testing that confirmed the metal dust was combustible, and the recommendations crafted to prevent recurrence.