

Case Study:

Potential Explosives Management

Heart Device Manufacturer
Buffalo, NY

Situation



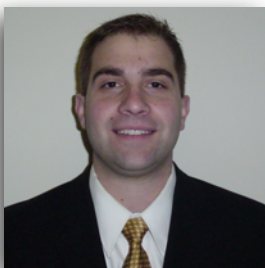
A medical manufacturer located in Buffalo, New York experienced a fire when air entered the glove box of a processing unit, and the titanium powder used to create the welding on its heart-device products was exposed. As a result of this incident, the company asked Triumvirate Environmental to decontaminate the equipment and remove the filters within the glove box, removing any remaining powder.

Action

Two days after the fire, Triumvirate flew its personnel in to Buffalo to perform a walk-through of the building, examine the equipment, meet facility staff, and put together a health and safety work plan for stabilization of the material. Within one week, four reactivities specialists were on-site with aluminized Kevlar flash suits, type-D fire extinguishers, and glove bags to maintain inert atmosphere. These Triumvirate employees had 40-hour explosives training from the Energetic Materials Research and Training Center – a division of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology – and 24-hour explosives training at the University of Rhode Island. The reactivities specialists wrapped the glove bags around the filters, filled the bags with nitrogen to keep air out, and dismantled the filters. They then placed the entire bag in a drum of oil, and cut open the bag. This process – from start to finish – was completed within five hours.

Result

Triumvirate prevented possible property damage, maintained the safety of client staff, and reduced production downtime by immediately developing a plan and quickly deploying highly-trained specialists to dismantle the equipment and decontaminate the site. The risk of explosion and fire was eliminated, and the room was re-opened for manufacturing within two weeks.



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