



SAFETY ALERT NOTIFICATION

This is NOT an investigation report. It is a NOTIFICATION of a Significant Incident that has taken place at a Freeport-McMoRan location. The information below is a preliminary assessment and not a formal investigation.

OPERATION:	Norwich Operations			Incident:	X
ISSUED BY:	Brian J. DeGrafft			Injury:	
DATE:	March 16, 2015			Property Damage:	
TIME:	0400			Process Loss:	
LOCATION/DEPARTMENT:	Receiving Department				
INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:	<p>An incoming load of cathode was being unloaded from a van-style trailer truck that had been in a hard-braking incident enroute, which resulted in the cathode bundles breaking apart. The GPS tracker unit was buried somewhere among the scattered cathode sheets. While the cathode was being moved by a forklift operator, a sound similar to opening a bottle of soda was heard and flames were observed coming from between the cathode bundles, as the GPS tracker burned. The fire was quickly extinguished. Upon examination of the unit, it was found the Lithium Ion battery in the unit had caught fire, likely from damage from the copper cathode and burned through the protective case.</p>				
DETAILS OF INJURY TYPE:	N/A				
POTENTIAL FOR INJURY:	Fatality	Lost Time	Permanent Disability	Other Potential	
				Fire	
PROBABLE DIRECT CAUSES:	Crushing from the cathode may have caused the battery to catch fire.				
IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION:	Fire was extinguished and damaged equipment sent to manufacturer for analysis				
REQUIRED ACTIONS:	Mechanical abuse / damage to lithium battery cells can cause shorting between cell electrodes, leading to thermal runaway and fire. Avoid placing batteries or equipment containing batteries where they may be damaged during transport or normal use.				



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