

Safe and sustainable fire protection in mining

One of the most imminent risks in mining operations is fire – which is a constant threat in numerous applications, ranging from the battery-operated headlights used for underground mining, to fuel storage for mobile mining equipment.

One of the major obstacles to fire safety in the mining industry is that standard dry chemical powder (DCP) handheld extinguishers are specified on-site. Although DCP extinguishers are highly effective in extinguishing flames, they offer minimal cooling properties.

Environmental solutions company I-CAT recently introduced a new range of Water Mist handheld fire extinguishers to the local market. Utilising water as the main agent and nitrogen as a propellant, this handheld range is capable of extinguishing most types of fire, including

rubber and plastic fires, diesel and petrol fires, and electrical fires rated up to 350 kV.

I-CAT's manager: Fire Division, Andro Gibhard, states that, by using patented technology from Europe, the atomised mist generated by the extinguisher gradually cools down a hot surface without causing thermal shock. "It creates a thermal heat radiation barrier between the operator and the fire, thereby preventing the operator from getting burned when operating the extinguisher."

Gibhard highlights the fact that the Water Mist range is environmentally friendly and ensures greater operator safety. "Each litre of water amounts to 120 m² coverage capability, making it extremely safe and efficient. What's more, the small quantity of water used also results in little to no redundancy or damage," he adds. **35**



I-CAT's Water Mist extinguisher range received SABS approval at the end of 2014