



The huge plume of smoke could be seen from town, but luckily no one was injured in the blaze

ArcelorMittal Newcastle in flames

Kyle Cowan

ArcelorMittal confirmed a fire broke out at its conveyor belt system at the Newcastle plant on April 26.

“The fire, which started mid-morning, lasted for 45 minutes before it was extinguished,” said Siphon Mntambo, Environmental Manager at Newcastle Works.

“The fire was caused by spontaneous ignition after the coals on the conveyor belts dropped around the

rollers,” he added. The plume of smoke could be seen from town, as many reports flooded in via South African Community Crime Watch sent out BBM broadcast messages to inform residents of the potential danger at the plant. “The main damage caused was to two conveyor belts and the rollers, which were instantly replaced and production resumed without delay. “We are very pleased that there were no injuries reported during this incident,” concluded Mr Mntambo.