

News Update

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Fire at the Bekaert Rome, Georgia (US) plant

On Wednesday afternoon, 19 November, a fire caused structural damage to part of the Bekaert manufacturing plant in Rome, Georgia. All employees were evacuated on time and nobody was injured. The fire appeared to have started in a hood above the bead wire line and spread into the ceiling. We were allowed to access the plant late afternoon on 20 November.

The bead wire lines and the adjacent draw area were damaged due to the fire and the roof collapse. First inspection reveals the roof, walls and building in the bead wire and draw area will have to be replaced. The bead wire take-up area, packaging area, and warehouse area have maintained intact, as well as the equipment that was recently installed as part of the modernization investments in the plant. There seem to be no spills of materials that may have an environmental impact.

Bekaert has been in contact with its customers to ensure a maximum level of continuity of supply in the short-term and in the mid-term. In the short-term, Bekaert and its customers are addressing the needs as much as possible with product stocks available. For the mid-term, solutions are proposed and analyzed to enable sourcing the US customer needs from Bekaert plants in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Bekaert Rome also produces hose wire. Based upon the information currently available, there would be no material impact on the supply to Bekaert's customers in the US.

Profile

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coatings. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 27 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generated combined sales of € 4.1 billion in 2013.