

THE AKRON FOUNDRY FIRE

On Thursday July 14, 2011 a fire struck the small town of Akron, Indiana. This quiet, rural community of 1,200 watched as the Akron Foundry went up in flames. This devastating fire not only took one of Akron's largest employers, but also impacted the supply of iron products to Ford Meter Box.



Smoke rises over Akron Foundry as the fire rages.

Ford employees worked quickly to salvage and relocate patterns to other companies. Since the fire, we have rebuilt the damaged patterns and shifted our production to other vendors. Although these companies have done an outstanding job of working with us to restore

production, our traditional goal of building inventory during the winter months has been challenging. Today the stock levels of many iron products are at normal levels, while a few products remain in short supply.



More than 300,000 gallons of water were used fighting the fire. Akron's two 150,000-gallon water towers were quickly drawn down and area fire tankers brought in water.

Over the past century, Ford Meter Box has overcome many challenges including floods, fires and tornadoes. Although the fire caused some delays in our delivery, we are grateful to our loyal customers who have demonstrated patience and understanding as we work to resume normal deliveries. As roadblocks occur, the employees of Ford Meter Box will persevere and focus on our commitment to improve customer satisfaction by providing the highest quality products with reasonable prices and delivery.

Note: Thanks to Marty Gearhart, Superintendent at Akron Water Department, and Fire Chief at Henry Township Volunteer Fire Department for help in telling the story of Akron.



Members of the Roann Volunteer Fire Department fight the fire. Seven area volunteer fire departments with 75 firefighters responded to the fire at Akron Foundry.

