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Viral video shows excess gas burn-off, says Fire Dept

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KUANTAN: A viral video that purportedly shows a fire at the Alliance Steel factory in the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park is not what it appears to be.

Pahang Fire and Rescue Department director Nor Hisham Mohamad said it was not a fire but the burning of excess gas at a coal coking plant block.

He said there was a power disruption at the factory at 9.40pm on Tuesday.

"The source was not from the Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) substation but from the factory's internal power system.

"The extraction fan at the coking plant stopped working during the power supply cut and when this happened, the safety system kicked in automatically by releasing excess

gas through the heat release chimneys to prevent a build-up of pressure in the furnace," said Nor Hisham.

He explained that burning up the gas in the furnace also helped to prevent air pollution.

"All eight heat release chimneys worked as intended and burnt up the gas produced.

"The image of a fire is actually the burning of the released gas," he said, adding that they investigated the incident on site and also summoned Alliance Steel for further explanation.

TNB had verified that there was no power disruption and fire at its substation while Alliance Steel was investigating the cause of the power disruption.

Alliance Steel said in a statement that it had taken normal precaution steps according to its safety operating procedures.