

INCIDENT ALERT

LOCATION:	On-Highway	ALERT STATUS:	Normal
ACTIVITY:	Production and Processing	DATE ISSUED:	11/05/09
SUB ACTIVITY:	Asphalt & coated stone	INCIDENT No:	00226

TITLE

Bitumen Boilers

ACCIDENT / INCIDENT DETAILS

Over the last two months there have been TWO SERIOUS INCIDENTS when bitumen boilers have caught fire in the North East.

Hot bitumen and the use of bitumen boilers can cause serious burns.

ACCIDENT / INCIDENT IMAGES



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Extreme care must be taken when handling hot bitumen and in particular you must:

- LWEAR protective clothing including helmet, face visor, gauntlets and safety footwear where contact or spillage is likely.
- LDO NOT place hands inside the burner chamber when lighting boilers.
- LENSURE no water is present in the boiler.
- LALWAYS cordon off a bitumen boiler before leaving it unattended and close the lid.
- LALWAYS keep fire extinguisher in close proximity to the working area. (Only use Dry powder, CO2 or Foam were possible cover with a Fire Blanket if safe to do so).
- LNEVER try to extinguish a bitumen fire with water
- LKEEP a regular check on the boiler to ensure the status of burner and bitumen to avoid overheating and/or the release of unburnt LPG vapours.
- LMAKE SURE all hoses are reinforced, in good condition, and of an adequate length to keep the gas cylinder at least 3m away from the bitumen boiler when burner is lit. Exceptions to this are purpose built boilers with a heat resistant shield between the burner and the gas bottle.
- LALWAYS keep cold water close at hand to cool skin affected by hot bitumen. Never pour water onto the bitumen in the boiler.
- LFIRST AID; If a burn occurs from contact with hot bitumen, cool the skin by plunging in cold water for at least ten minutes. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE BITUMEN. SEEK QUALIFIED MEDICAL HELP.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS IMAGES