

# Bitumen Spillage

## WHAT HAPPENED

While mixing the first batch of the day the plant operator noticed that the bitumen was not weighing up, although the bitumen pump was running.

- On investigation the operator could see bitumen flowing down through the plant.
- The operation was stopped and the bitumen was safely cleaned up.
- No one was working in the area and no injuries occurred.
- The initial investigation has identified that the bitumen weigh kettle had overfilled.
- The cause of the overfilling was a fuse failure on the weighing system, which meant that the control system was showing a zero reading.
- There is no fail safe for this bitumen system i.e. a probe or a counter, which would stop the bitumen pump.



Top of kettle



Underneath kettle

## LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

The investigation is ongoing, but in the interim managers are advised to review their bitumen systems to:

- Establish if any part of the bitumen system fails does it fail to safe. i.e close the system down fully
- What is in place to indicate if the kettle is full



Spillage

**LOCATION:**  
**ACTIVITY:**  
**SUB ACTIVITY:**

**ASPHALT/COATING PLANT**  
**PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING**  
**ASPHALT & COATED STONE**

**ALERT STATUS:** Normal  
**DATE ISSUED:** 01/06/2020 12:25:11  
**INCIDENT No:** 02562