Talk No: 43	Title: WORKING WITH ASPHALT/BITUMEN

Introduction: Working with asphalt and/or bitumen often carries a double risk. A primary risk from working with hot materials, and a secondary risk from the location – roads and roofs!

Main points:

- Plan tasks using asphalt and/or bitumen taking into account the local environment (roads, roofs, etc).
- Only trained personnel should carry out such tasks (or trainees under supervision).
- Apply hot work precautions including PPE, fire appliances, after work checks, etc.

Discussion points:

- Areas where asphalt/bitumen work is to be carried out should be fenced off to prevent access by other employees and/or the public. Where applicable, traffic control will need to be deployed. ☐ Signpost the type of work in hand (particularly when asphalting).
- Ensure suitable PPE is available, serviceable, and used!
- Wear hi-visibility vests when working on or near roads.
- Have suitable and serviceable fire extinguishers within arm's reach. Ensure all know how to use them.
- Have a first aid kit within reasonable access. Ensure basic treatment for burns is known. Ensure asphalt/bitumen pots are serviceable and, in particular, that taps are working.
- Avoid the need to carry hot asphalt/bitumen over any distance so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Carry out checks 30 minutes after hot work has been completed for any residual risk.

GOOD QUALITY PROMOTES GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY!

Notes:

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