

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 27 - No 51 KETTLE SAFETY

The dangers associated with kettles are very real. They contain materials such as hot asphalt or coal tar that need to be handled with extreme care. Remember to always wear proper personal protective equipment when working with or around kettles. It is important to always follow safety requirements such as:

1. The propane tanks should be secured in an upright position at least 25 feet from the kettle.
2. The kettle should be on level ground with the tongue leveled and wheels blocked.
3. Make sure the kettle lid opens away from the building. Also check to see that the lid fits tightly.
4. A warning line should be set up around the kettle area to keep people away.
5. Make sure the kettle is ice and water free. Water inside the kettle can pop or flash once the asphalt is heated.
6. Before firing up the kettle, make sure all the vents are open. Check all hoses, gauges, burners and other equipment for defects.
7. Cut the bitumen into hand-sized pieces and place them carefully into the kettle. Always wear the appropriate PPE when loading the kettle.
8. Never light a torch with a disposable lighter or matches. Use a spark lighter.
9. Increase kettle temperatures and add bitumen slowly. Never allow kettle tubes to be exposed. This can result in a fire or explosion.
10. Keep any debris, discarded packaging, or any combustibles neatly away from the kettle area.
11. If there is a fire inside the kettle, close the lid and turn off burners immediately.
12. Open spigots and valves slowly. Be careful on windy days because hot bitumen can easily be blown around, causing burns.
13. When carrying buckets of hot asphalt or bitumen on sloped surfaces, do so with the bucket on the downhill side.
14. To avoid splashes, never fill a bucket more than three-quarters full.
15. Have a 20 pound ABC rated dry chemical fire extinguisher on the roof and two 10 pound ABC rated dry chemical fire extinguishers on the ground within 30 feet.



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