

Asphalt Safety

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



Work with asphalt is a job duty for different employees in several different industries. Because of this, the danger of handling or being in the presence of hot asphalt can pose risks of injury to many employees.

Asphalt Fumes

Asphalt, when heated, emits fumes that can cause health risks to those handling the asphalt for long periods of time. Such exposure can result in injuries and symptoms that can range from headaches to skin rashes, loss of appetite, sensitization, fatigue, and even throat and eye irritation. A few studies have shown that asphalt fumes can increase the chances of lung cancer. Taking the proper precautions to reduce exposure to fumes helps employees remain safe while working.

Personal Protective Equipment

Wearing the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) reduces the chance of injury or illness when working with asphalt. PPE not only protects workers if they come into physical contact with asphalt, but also limits their exposure to the harmful fumes.

Workers should wear:

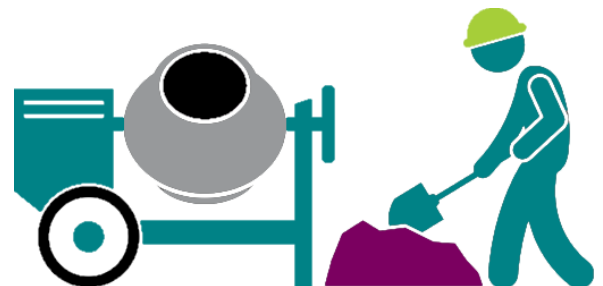
- Goggles or safety glasses with side shields. When working with kettles of asphalt, a full face-shield should be worn
- Long sleeve shirt, preferably made from cotton or a non-synthetic material
- Heat-resistant gloves
- Long pants
- Boots
- Respirators in certain situations

On the Job Safety

There are many considerations that need to be made to help reduce the risk of injury while working with asphalt. Before work begins, the acting supervisor should take measures to create a safe worksite. One of the most important aspects of creating a safe worksite for asphalt work is proper placement of the asphalt kettle. The location of the kettle should account for any air movement that may blow fumes towards employees. The kettle should be placed on solid ground, reducing any chances of an accidental tip-over. A protective safety zone should be set up around the kettle where fumes are anticipated to be the strongest. Maintaining the proper temperature of asphalt is also important, as overheating asphalt products can result in fires or explosions.

General Safety Reminders

- Whenever employees are working with combustible liquids or materials like asphalt, a fire extinguisher must be on site and employees must know how to properly use the extinguisher.
- Keep these combustible materials away from ignition sources such as a lit cigarette or an open flame.
- Employees should also know the proper first-aid treatment for potential injuries, should one occur. For asphalt, burn-related injuries are the most likely to occur.
- Employers should provide clean water, safe soap and cleaners for employees to use. Workers should at least wash their hands before eating and after work when working with potentially hazardous materials.



Worker Training

It is recommended that employers educate their workers on the dangers of asphalt, asphalt fumes and how to protect themselves while handling asphalt.

- Employees should know the potential injuries and illnesses that can result from working with and around asphalt. This includes the illnesses and injuries that result from both direct contact with asphalt and inhalation of asphalt fumes.
- Having a detailed list of the personal protective equipment available to employees which identifies when such equipment should be used can limit potential issues from arising. It is recommended that an employer representative demonstrate how to properly use the available equipment to ensure that employees have a full understanding of how the protection equipment works.

- Jobsite safety is a critical component to reducing or preventing workplace accidents involving asphalt. Tasks like planning and laying out worksites prior to the start of work and confirming employee training to ensure awareness of concepts, like Equiviscous Temperature (EVT) and asphalt flash point, help to limit worksite hazards.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher on hand in case of material ignition.
- Keep asphalt away from possible ignition sources.
- Direct employees in proper first-aid and treatment of injuries.
- Direct employees in proper cleanup and disposal of asphalt.

For OSHA information regarding asphalt safety, please consult the following:

- 1910 Subpart 1: Personal Protective Equipment
 - 1926 Subpart E: Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment in Construction
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Asphalt Safety Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
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(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
