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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

No. 103

Propane Fueled Rubberized Asphalt Melter Precautions

Before operating a rubberized asphalt melter, it is the obligation of everyone involved in its operation to know, understand and follow all recommended safety procedures, local ordinances and codes. As with all safety programs, written directions and codification must be combined with individuals exercising common sense with a high awareness of safety issues. This is applicable to all personnel on a work site, not just the supervisor or safety officer.

Towards that end, the following common sense actions are recommended for the safe operation of propane fueled rubberized asphalt melters.

1. The melter operator shall have been schooled in the operation of the asphalt melter and what procedures are to be followed in the event of a fire or other situations requiring immediate action.
2. The melter operator shall follow all maintenance procedures recommended by the melter manufacturer, including attention to grease fittings, chain and gear maintenance, engine care and filter replacement.
3. Ensure that all pressure relief lines are open and fully operable.
4. If using an oil jacketed melter, check heat transfer oil level each day before starting operations. Do not overfill as the oil expands when heated.
5. No more than 75 gallons (3-100# cylinders) of propane shall be on the roof level during the day. Some local jurisdictions allow only one bottle at a time on the roof. Comply with local regulations.
6. All propane is to be removed from roof deck each night and stored in an upright position in a secure locked enclosure.
7. Provide a fire resistant blanket under any melter used on the roof level such as a sheet metal pan or alternately, provide a sand bag perimeter.
8. Use only propane bottles approved by the local Fire Marshal and equipped with excess flow valves and protective shields for the valve bodies.
9. All torches and burners shall be kept at least 15 feet from the propane bottle at all times.
10. Contractor shall have at least two 20 lb. dry chemical (ABC) fire extinguishers adjacent to melter

11. All lighted torches or burners shall be attended at all times.
12. Additional bottles, whether full or empty, shall be kept at least 30' away from the cylinder being used as a fuel source.
13. Contractors shall have additional 20 lb. dry chemical (ABC) fire extinguishers placed at various easily accessible areas on the roof.
14. Contractors shall inspect all fuel supply lines daily by using soapy water to ensure fittings do not leak.
15. Contractors shall notify the local Fire Marshal or the appropriate individual within the local fire prevention department of the name of his firm and address of the building in which he is performing the roofing project prior to starting work and obtaining any permits as may be required of that particular locality.
16. It should be noted that when propane fueled burners cannot be used, diesel or kerosene fueled burners may be substituted for propane burners.

If you have any questions, the following resources may be of value:

National Roofing Contractors Association	(800) 323-9545
Factory Mutual Research Corporation	(617) 762-4300
National Fire Protection Association	(617) 770-3000
OSHA	(202) 634-7943 / (202) 523-8017
Barrett Company	(800) 647-0100

Important Notice

With the interest of our customers in mind, Barrett offers the information contained in this bulletin, only as a overview of basic procedures involved in the operation of a propane fueled rubberized asphalt melter and should not be considered complete. Barrett accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury related to the use of this type equipment. It is the obligation all individuals managing and operating this equipment to be fully informed of all regulations and safety procedures applicable to the particular equipment being used. Consult the equipment manufacturers detailed and current recommended operating instructions and safety procedures.