Working with hot tar or asphalt presents some unique risks to individuals in certain construction trades. Aside from burns, exposure to these hot materials and their fumes can contribute to poor judgment, loss of balance and heightened risk of heat illnesses. We encourage you to review with your employees the administrative controls that you enforce to protect them from accidents involving hot tar or asphalt.

In your training session:

1. Go over the kinds of equipment that you use for working with hot tar or asphalt and how to use them safely. Ensure that your employees understand who is authorized to use each piece of equipment. Regularly train equipment operators to perform their duties safely.

2. Explain the policies that you have for safe equipment operations.
   - Where and how to construct a barrier around the kettle and other equipment (such as machinery used for transporting tar or asphalt)
   - Where to position kettles (away from flammable materials, electrical hazards and building air intake vents)
   - Who is authorized to cross barriers around tar or asphalt work and/or the kettle
   - How to control the temperature of the kettle and heated materials (which should be kept at least 25 degrees cooler than the material’s flash point)
   - What the process is for communicating equipment operation and overhead hazards before a project begins, including clear parameters for working safely in and around the work area

3. Ask your employees what they need to wear to be safe when working with or around hot tar or asphalt:
   - Long-sleeved cotton shirt
   - Cuffless, well fitted pants
   - Heat-resistant gloves that protect the wrists
   - Non-slip work boots that protect the ankles
   - Fitted safety goggles
   - For kettle workers: full face shields, hard hats, respirators and torso protection

4. Clearly indicate at each worksite where burn first aid supplies and a fire extinguisher are located:
   - They should be in the vicinity of the kettle.
   - Make sure your fire extinguisher is rated appropriately for the job and that your employees know how to use it.

5. Hand out Chesapeake Employers’ “Preventing Hot Tar and Asphalt Burns,” tip sheet in English or Spanish.

Pro Tip: Assign a competent person to plan and oversee site safety for all work with and around heated materials.

VOCABULARY
Asphalt – Asfalto [ahs-FAHL-toh]
Barrier – Barrera [bar-RAY-rah]
Boiler/kettle – Caldera [kahl-DAY-rah]
Bucket – Cubo [KOO-boh]
Fire extinguisher – Extintor de fuego [aiks-teen-tor day FWAY-goh]
First aid kit – Botiquín de primeros auxilios [boh-tee-KEEN day pree-MAY-rohs awk-SEE-lee-ohs]
Flammable – Inflamable [een-flah-MAH-blay]
Tar – Alquitrán [ahl-kee-TRAHN]

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
Full face shield – Protector facial [pro-tak-TOR tah-SEE-AHL]
Hard hat – Casco [KAHS-koh]
Heat-resistant gloves – Guantes refractarios [GWAHN-tace ray-frahk-TOH-ree-ohs]
Long pants – Pantalones que le cubren totalmente las piernas [pahn-tah-LOH-nace kay KOO-brain toh-tahl-MAIN-tay lahs PEE-AIR-rahs]
Long-sleeved cotton shirt – Camisa de algodón con mangas largas [kah-MEE-sah day ahl-go-dohn con maNGahs lar-Gahs]
Non-slip shoes – Zapatos antideslizantes [sah-PAH-tohs aahn-tee-dace-lee-SAHHN-tace]
Respirator – Respirador [race-pee-rah-DOR]
Safety goggles – Gafas protectoras [GAH-fahs pro-tak-TOR-rahs]

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In addition to wearing personal protective equipment and following administrative policies, there are many good working habits that employees must take upon themselves to put into practice. Discuss with your employees some of these simple steps to prevent careless hot tar or asphalt accidents.

**In your training session:**

1. **Ask your employees to describe what “good housekeeping” means when working with hot tar or asphalt.**
   - Keep the kettle area clear (especially from flammable objects and other sources of ignition).
   - Always check the ground for trip hazards before entering an area with asphalt, tar or a kettle.
   - Communicate and clean any spills immediately.

2. **Model safe mop use.**
   - Simulate the mop being stuck to hot tar or asphalt and illustrate how the worker should gently twist the mop in order to remove it from the heated material instead of yanking it. Explain that jerking the mop rather than twisting it can cause the worker to lose control and slip or dislodge the mop with enough force to splash the worker or co-workers with the heated material. The same twisting method should be applied to tar or asphalt buckets when lifting them from sticky surfaces.

3. **Lead a discussion on ways to safely transport hot tar or asphalt from one area to another.**
   - **How should you lift a bucket to an elevated area safely?**
     - Use a hoist or elevator; never carry the bucket up a ladder.
     - Communicate to co-workers that you will be hoisting hot tar or asphalt.
     - Never stand below or immediately around the hot tar or asphalt as it is hoisted.
   - **How full can a bucket of hot tar or asphalt be to safe to carry?**
     - No more than 3/4 full
   - **How should you safely carry a bucket?**
     - Always check for tripping hazards in the walking area before lifting the bucket.
     - Make sure the bucket either has a secure lid or splash guards.
     - Lift only one bucket at a time.
     - Hold the bucket slightly away from the body to avoid accidental contact.
     - Walk at a safe pace.

**VOCABULARY**

- Asphalt – Asfalto [ahs-FAHL-toh]
- Boiler/kettle – Caldera [kah-DAY-rah]
- Bucket – Cubo [KOO-boh]
- Flammable – Inflamable [een-flah-MAH-blay]
- Hoist – Aparato para izar [ah-pah-RAH-toh ee-SAR]
- Ladder – Escalera [ace-kah-LAY-rah]
- Lid – Tapa [TAH-pah]
- Pump – Bomba [BOHM-bah]
- Tar – Alquitrán [ahl-kee-TRAHN]

**USEFUL EXPRESSIONS**

- Carry one bucket at a time – Lleve un cubo a la vez [YAY-vay oon KOO-boh ah lah vace]
- Check the area for tripping hazards – Asegúrese de que el área esté despejada para evitar caídas [ah-say-GOO-ray-say day kay ell AH-ray-ah ace-TAY day de-se-pay-HAH-dah PAH-rah ay-vee-TAR kah-EE-dahs]
- Keep the lid on the bucket – Mantenga tapado el cubo [mahn-TAIN-gah tah-PAH-doh ell KOO-boh]

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Dealing with tar and asphalt fumes is part of the job, but it should not be a reason for your employees to be unhealthy or unsafe on the job. Thanks to respirators, all those working around heated concrete, tar and asphalt can breathe easily while getting the job done. The following safety recommendations for choosing and using the right respirator for the job are based on OSHA’s respirator standards and training videos.

In your training session:

1. Ask your employees to identify the situation(s) in which they must wear a respirator.

2. Explain the abilities and limitations of respirators in protecting their wearers. Employees must understand Appendix D of OSHA standard 1910.134, which concerns respirator use even in situations when it is not required under the standard.

3. Demonstrate how to:
   • inspect a respirator for damage
   • put on a respirator
   • ensure that the respirator fits right and is properly secured (Note that facial hair interferes with obtaining a proper fit.)
   • clean and store the respirator (to make it last)

4. For helpful video illustrations of any of the demonstrations listed in step 2, consult OSHA’s bilingual respirator how-to videos on OSHA’s website.

5. Consider having all employees sign a safety agreement consenting to follow the burn prevention guidelines covered by this concrete, tar and asphalt training series. See the attached document for Chesapeake Employers’ sample agreement.

For more information on the ways you can protect yourself against asphalt fumes, see NIOSH’s illustrated guide.

VOCABULARY
Adjust – Ajustar [ah-hoos-TAR]
Damage – Daño [DAH-nyoh]
Facial hair – Vello de la cara [VAY-yoh day lah KAH-rah]
Respirator – Respirador [race-pee-rah-DOR]

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS
Dangerous fumes – Gases peligrosos [GAH-sace pay-lee-GROW-sohs]
To fit correctly – Quedarse bien [kay-DAR-say byen]
To put on – Ponerse [poh-NAIR-say]

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(Name of Company) considers the safety of its employees to be its first priority. We do all in our power to reduce the risk of accidents for our employees, and we recognize that burn prevention training is an important step in lowering these risks. Upon completion of several hot tar and asphalt training sessions, we require all of our employees to agree to follow certain safety rules to protect themselves and their co-workers from unnecessary risks.

Please read and initial the following statements to indicate that you understand and agree.

Hot Tar and Asphalt Safety:

• I will wear all required personal protective equipment. 

• I will never carry a bucket of heated materials up a ladder. 

• I will check to make sure the walking/working area around the kettle or heated materials is clear of trip-hazards before I approach that area. 

• I will use a stool or kneel for low work to avoid bending. 

• I will never fill a bucket with any heated material more than ¾ full. 

• I have read Appendix D of OSHA standard 1910.134 concerning respirator use even in situations when it is not required under the standard.

Initial

I, ______________________________________ (Employee Name), understand and agree to follow the aforementioned rules related to hot tar and asphalt work. I understand that violating any of these rules may affect my position here at the company, up to and including termination of employment.

Name: ______________________________________ Date: ______________

Signature: __________________________________________

(Nombre de la empresa) considera la seguridad de sus empleados como algo de primera importancia. Hacemos todo al nuestro alcance para disminuir el riesgo de accidentes, y reconocemos que una capacitación contra las quemaduras constituye un paso muy importante en la prevención de lesiones ocupacionales. Tras cumplir algunos sesiones de capacitación sobre cómo protegerse en el trabajo con alquitrán y asfalto, todos los empleados tienen que firmar un acuerdo en el cual aceptan unas condiciones para mantenerse a salvo durante actividades peligrosas.

Lea y firme cada de las siguientes frases si entiende y se decide a seguirlas.

Seguridad con el alquitrán y asfalto:
- Llevaré todo el equipo de protección personal requerido.
- Nunca llevaré cubos de materiales calientes cuando subo una escalera.
- Averiguaré que el área de trabajo esté despejada antes de acercarme a la caldera o un cubo de materiales calientes.
- Usaré un escabel o me arrodillaré para hacer tareas cercanas al piso en vez de doblar la espalda.
- Nunca llenaré un cubo con materiales calientes más de las tres cuartas partes.
- He leído el apéndice D de la norma 1910.134 de OSHA sobre el uso de respiradores incluso en situaciones cuando la norma no lo requiere.

Yo, ___________________________________________ (Nombre de empleado) entiendo y acepto las antedichas reglas del trabajo con el alquitrán y el asfalto. Entiendo que una violación de cualquiera de estas reglas podría acarrear acciones disciplinarias, incluyendo la terminación del contrato laboral.

Nombre: ___________________________________________ Fecha: ______________________
Firma: ___________________________________________