



SAFETY ALERT # 4



Week of September 12th, 2005

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

What Happened

An asphalt paving company was using a “low profile” asphalt paver to patch small areas of a private roadway. The injured employee set a can of orange spray paint on the rear deck of the paver. The can rolled off and into the screed area which was heated by propane burners. When the extensions of the paver were brought in the can was squeezed and split open. The burner ignited the resulting uncontrolled emission of paint. The worker, still in the screed area, put his arm up to block his face from the flame. His forearm suffered second degree burns while his face suffered first degree burns. The employee indicated that he put the paint in an open top tool box on the paver deck rather than directly on the deck. It’s unclear at this point whether that happened or not.

Best Practices

This is not just an issue for the paving industry as compressed gas and heat rarely mix very well. The propane heater could have just as easily been a space heater or some type of welding equipment. Paint must be stored away from all heating units or other sources of ignition. MIOSHA Part 18 states that containers must be “*Located as to minimize exposure to excessive temperature rise, physical damage, or tampering.*” And that “*Provisions shall be made to prohibit containers from falling over the edge of openings or roofs.*” The Hazard Communication Standard also mandates that “*Employers shall provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment, and whenever a new physical or health hazard the employees have not previously been trained about is introduced into their work area.*” There are other safety issues to consider here such as the proximity of fire extinguishers and the existence of an emergency response plan.

Standards

R 408.4187 (1).
1910.1200 (h)(1)
R 408.41841(4)

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