

The James Myers Co., Inc.



TOOLBOX TALKS

Week #20

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION • CNA COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

Torch-Applied Systems

- ☛ Be careful when lighting a torch, and when handling a lighted torch.
 - Check all connections for leaks before you start so that gas will not escape and create an unknown fire hazard.
 - Light the torch with a spark generator, not a match or a lighter.
 - If the torch is designed to be laid down while lit, make sure the surface where you lay it is non-flammable.
 - Never leave a lighted torch unattended.

- ☛ Do not torch directly to a flammable substrate.
 - Surfaces such as plywood or wood fiber need to be covered with a non-flammable material such as a base ply of asphalt felt before torching the modified bitumen membrane.

- ☛ When working on existing structures, especially those with wood decks, use extra caution at wall terminations and around projections.
 - Dust, lint, oil, and grease can all accumulate in these areas and may be easily ignited by the torch. Never torch into an area that you cannot clearly see.

- ☛ It's essential to perform a fire watch for at least one hour after the last torch is turned off.
 - Fires will often smolder for an hour or more before bursting into flames.
 - A thorough inspection above and below the deck should reveal any hot spots in the roof.

- ☛ Wear proper PPE when using a torch.
 - Leather gloves with gauntlets
 - A long-sleeved shirt
 - Eye protection
 - Sturdy work boots

From lighting and handling the torch to laying the heated system, torch-applied systems present serious hazards. You and all of your coworkers need to be extremely careful so that you don't burn yourselves or cause serious property damage.

Torch-Applied Systems Training Tips

- Demonstrate the lighting procedure.
- Explain the responsibilities of the fire watch.
- Ask the following questions:
 - What will happen if you light the torch and there are leaks in the hose that you didn't notice?
 - What can result from unattended hot spots in the roof?