

The James Myers Co, Inc.



Week 23

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION • CNA COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

Burns from Hot Asphalt or Coal Tar Pitch

☞ Hot asphalt or coal tar pitch burns are painful and often disfiguring.

- Hot stuff will stick to almost any surface, including flesh.
- It continues to burn the surface it has landed on until it has cooled.
- These burns are very painful and they are extremely difficult to clean.

☞ Wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will help prevent burns.

When you work with hot stuff you should wear:

- Long-sleeved shirts that button over the cuffs of gloves;
- Long cuffless pants that come over the tops of over-the-ankle construction boots;
- Hard hats and face shields, for those who operate kettles and luggers; and
- at least goggles for the moppers.



☞ It's important to understand how to respond to burns.

- When the hot is still completely liquid clothing can be removed quickly, but once it has begun to harden do not try to remove the asphalt or clothing at all.
- Cool the burn area with water only to hasten the hardening and cooling of the hot.
- Never apply ointment. It will only have to be painfully removed at the hospital.
- Hot burns are usually 2nd or 3rd degree burns, and can be life-threatening.

☞ The seriousness of a burn is key in determining appropriate treatment.

- A first degree burn produces only redness and swelling - like a sunburn.
- A second degree burn is indicated by blistering.
- A third degree burn will show itself in the form of dark, charred skin.
- Medical attention must be sought immediately for either 2nd degree burns that cover a large area of the body (or any area encompassing the head, genitals, or extremities), or any 3rd degree burns.

☞ If medical attention has been called:

- Keep the person as comfortable as possible while an ambulance is called.
- Watch for signs of shock - dilated pupils; pale, clammy skin; shallow, irregular breathing; and rapid or weak pulse- and elevate the person's feet if these signs are present.

Burns from Hot Asphalt or Coal Tar Pitch Training Tips

- Ask if anyone has been burned from hot, or has ever seen a coworker burned. Encourage them to discuss the incident.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Why is it important to wear cuffless pants when working with hot?
 - Why is it important to wear tight-fitting gloves?