

**Safety Alert**

**Bitumen Emulsion Incident**

 An incident occurred when a Bitumen Emulsion Tanker arrived to discharge into a mobile storage tank (cartem). During the transfer process the driver noticed that bitumen emulsion was bubbling from the pipework joint on the delivery tanker, when he lifted the pipework to inspect it, the pipework disconnected and sprayed out 80⁰c Bitumen Emulsion over the driver. The driver quickly turned off the secondary valve and removed all his PPE. He was assisted on site by an operative who located the shower unit within the depot and the driver removed all the bitumen which has splashed under the visor over his face, although his safety glasses prevented any contact with his eyes.

The operative acted quickly onsite to create a temporary bund around the spilt material (2,000 litres) using the dust on site; this resulted in no material entering any drainage system. The driver was unharmed and the bitumen supplier haulage company carried out a full clean-up operation at the

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depot. An investigation is being carried out by the haulier and bitumen supplier as well as a full internal investigation.

 This incident could have caused severe injuries to the driver and caused significant environmental damage.

**Recommendations:**

* Member companies must ensure that any bitumen/fuel suppliers follow industry guidance for correct loading procedures.
* Check that sufficient spill prevention is available within depots and onsite at any fuelling station
* Emergency plans are easily accessible detailing drainage plans, location of spill kits, firefighting equipment and flammable materials.
* Testing of emergency plans are conducted regularly to test the effectiveness of our response to dealing with emergencies.

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