

# Safety alert



## Hot Box Incident - Safety Alert

### Incident Details

This incident occurred at an Asphalt Coating Plant on Saturday - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020. (Early morning)

The incident involved a collect customer with a hot box designed vehicle – The details are as follows:

The hot box heaters were started after the customer had been loaded to keep material warm inside the hot box by the vehicle operator. (customer).

However, it failed to ignite – the operator then went to close the doors / lids on top of vehicle.

There was a time delay and the operative then attempted to re-ignite the heater system on hot box, what he did not realise is the gas had still been flowing into the hot box.

The ignition worked on this occasion and there was a build-up of gas inside the hot box.

This caused an explosion which you can see on the safety alert and the video.

(Scan the QR Code to see a video of the incident.)

The operative and his colleague were very lucky to escape with no injuries.

If one of them was closing the lids or at the front end of vehicle it would have been a lot worse.

Please watch the video and read the safety alert as it asks questions and gives some advice regarding training and maintenance.



This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA.

For further information regarding this safety alert, please email: [roxy@rsta-uk.org](mailto:roxy@rsta-uk.org)

or phone 07817 116420

Alert No. 1/2021 – January 2021

## HOT BOX SAFETY ALERT

### REVIEW POINTS – HOT BOX HEATING SYSTEM

- IS YOUR HOT BOX MAINTAINED TO MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS?
- ARE THE PEOPLE TRAINED AND COMPETENT TO WORK ON THE EQUIPMENT?
- HAS ANY MODIFICATIONS / QUICK FIXES BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO GET IT WORKING?
- ARE YOU TRAINED TO OPERATE THE HOT BOX?

Failure to follow the above could cause life changing injury or death.



**The operative was extremely lucky not to be seriously injured or killed, he was two seconds away from being blown off the hot box.**