

Safety Alert



Bitumen Sprayer.

Binder Boil-Over due to Overheating.

On 22/06/2021, a bitumen sprayer tanker while travelling from one site to another site with the burners operating had a boil-over due to a faulty thermostat.

On 29/05/2021, there was a similar incident of this nature at another location.

The RSTA CoP – Surface Dressing – Part 7 - RSTA Guidance Note (2015) Guidance Note for Spray Tanker Operators states the following:

HEATING BINDERS

Never heat unless the binder level in the tanker is above the safe level marked on the dipstick or volume capacity gauge, specific to each tanker. The level should also be shown on the outside of the tanker.

The tanker should be located on level ground with the handbrake fully applied.

When the burners are lit, circulate the binder through the tank but not through the spray bar as this will waste heat and should be postponed until only a few minutes before spraying commences.

Tankers MUST be continually attended while heating is in progress; care should be exercised as smoking or naked flame could ignite the flammable vapour.

After heating has been completed, spraying should not commence until there has been time for the heater tubes to cool to a safe temperature.

Overheating of binders is very dangerous because it creates a high fire/explosion risk of the boiling over of emulsion. It can also cause damage to heating tubes through coking.

Do not use burners when loading or unloading regardless of what binder is being used. Sufficient time must be given between heating and loading to allow the burners to cool to as safe working temperature.

This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA. For further information regarding this safety alert.

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