

## **CRACK POURING/SEALING**

Water is the most destructive element to pavement. Water entering the roadway through cracks accelerates the deterioration of the roadway. In time, the water will undermine and weaken the roadway base material, creating cracks and potholes. Simply stated, crack pouring/sealing of cracks and joints in pavement extends the service life of the surface treatment and the pavement.

### **What are the Hazards?**

Moving traffic; moving equipment; hot/flammable materials; flying particles when blowing out cracks; temperature extremes; overcrowding of workers; slip, trip and fall conditions on the site.

### **Safe Work Practices**

- Review the safe operating procedures for equipment to be used on the job and perform pre-operational checks.
- Determine the type of traffic control setup and assign personnel specific duties.
- Park in areas that provide safe entrance and exit of the work area. Don't create potential conflicts with other vehicles and equipment operating in the work area. Provide maximum protection for workers getting in and out of vehicles.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) consistent with the hazards, including safety vest, gloves, boots, eye protection, and garments that cover the body completely with sleeves reaching over the wrists and trousers over the shoe tops.
- Be aware of escape routes in case of an emergency. It is a good practice to face oncoming traffic while on foot.
- Employees on foot must use extreme caution to stay clear of operating equipment. Always establish eye contact with operator before approaching equipment.
- Keep fire extinguishers available at all times when using a fired kettle or distributor. Extinguishers should be on other equipment, not the kettle.
- Use caution when handling hot/flammable materials and avoid direct contact. Review the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each material used.
- Don't adjust burners while the kettle or distributor is in motion.
- Allow ample space for everyone to work safely.
- Be aware of flying sand, dust, or other debris when blowing out cracks with compressed air. Eye protection must be worn for this type of work. Be aware of wind direction and try to work upwind.

- Use proper techniques when handling and loading blocks of tar or rubber materials.
- Never leave a fired kettle or distributor unattended.
- Before backing equipment, make sure the area is clear and use a spotter when available.

**WARNING: ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE FACT THAT ASPHALTIC MATERIAL ARE VERY FLAMMABLE. THE UTMOST CARE SHALL BE TAKE TO PREVENT OPEN FLAMES FROM COMING IN CONTACT WITH THE ASPHALTIC MATERIAL OR THEIR GASES.**

**Content Source-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** ) (Users of Safety Talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations).

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