

# SAFETY TALK

## Asphalt Paving Safety

### General Heavy Equipment Precautions

- Equipment and systems must be checked for proper operation at the start of each shift.
- General repairs must not be made to powered equipment until workers are protected from movement of equipment or its parts.
- Flaggers should be used at all locations where barricades or warning signs cannot control moving traffic.
- Machines must be equipped with operable service, emergency, or parking brakes.
- All equipment must be equipped with a functional horn.



### Precautions for Paving Operations

- Asphalt material ready for application may exceed temperatures of 300 degrees F. and the adhesion and heat conduction properties of the oil can combine to cause serious burns. Metal tools or equipment will heat quickly when in contact with the asphalt. The material itself should be treated as a hazard.
- Wear the appropriate PPE to prevent direct contact with your skin and eyes. This includes safety glasses, gloves, unripped pants, high visibility shirts/vests, and safety toe boots.
- Do not work or stand near the hopper of the paver when a truck is making its initial dump.
- Idle down any piece of equipment and set the parking brake before leaving the operator's station, even if only for a short time.
- Do not leave the paver unattended while the screed is heating.
- Never operate a paver at speeds which will cause ground personnel to work carelessly.
- Watch out for fellow workers; personnel concentrating on their assigned duties may be completely unaware of possible hazards.

### Treatment

- If any hot material is splashed into a worker's eyes, flush immediately with fresh water and seek medical attention.
- If any hot material gets on your skin, cool the affected area with cold water or ice packs as soon as possible. **DO NOT** remove the solidified bitumen material and seek medical attention.
- If you inhale asphalt fumes, move to fresh air immediately. Paving equipment manufactured after July 1, 1997, incorporate ventilation systems to reduce asphalt fumes. Ensure it is functioning properly if excessive asphalt fumes are present.



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## Safety Talk Sign-In Sheet Asphalt Paving Safety

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor/Talk Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Signature

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*Safety Talks are published by NDLTAP in cooperation with the National Local Technical Assistance Association and participating partner organizations.*

