



**NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

NJ PEOSH ALERT #43



Safety & Health Alert

PREVENTION OF BURN INJURIES DURING ASPHALT OPERATIONS

In the interest of the occupational safety and health of New Jersey's public employees, the New Jersey Department of Labor's Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) is providing this informational alert after investigating reports of public employees receiving thermal burns while working with asphalt equipment.

FOR MORE INFO:

HOTLINE: 800-624-1644

WEB: nj.gov/labor/safetyandhealth

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ENFORCEMENT



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**SCAN
ME**

ATTENTION Departments of Public Works, Road Departments, Streets and Roads Divisions – Risk of Imminent Danger to Thermal Burns

In the interest of the occupational safety and health of New Jersey's public employees, the New Jersey Department of Labor's Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) is providing this informational alert after investigating reports of public employees receiving thermal burns while working with asphalt equipment.

- **PEOSH investigations have revealed that "Hot Boxes," "Asphalt Trailers," "Reclaimers," or "Hot Patchers" have been used with diesel fuel being applied as a cleaning/release agent.**

This practice is dangerous as the hot temperatures of the equipment can create a fire hazard exposing employees to serious injury (burns) or death. It is imperative that the equipment be used only with an approved release agent as specified by the manufacturer of the equipment.

- **Approved release agents must be used consistent with their manufacturer's manual, instructions and/or labeling with users paying attention to evaporation times, which if not consulted and used, can cause undesired adhesion of asphalt.**

Application of these agents should be performed before use of the equipment while the unit is in a well-ventilated area, on level ground and with wheel chocks in place.



**OFFICE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
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- **Use of diesel fuel as a release agent is not in conformance with environmental regulations enforced by the US Environmental Protection Agency.**
(Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, Oil Pollution Act of 1990)
- **Asphalt equipment should be routinely inspected to ensure that it is in working order and that employees are trained in its proper operation.**
Topics to cover during training include, but are not limited to lights, tires, towing, operating temperature, dumping features, safety equipment (such as high limit thermostats, flame/ignition sensors and low voltage cut-outs) and work zone setup (as prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices).
- **Employers must also ensure that appropriate personal protective equipment is selected and provided to trained employees while using chemicals and equipment (including but limited to eye protection, leather gloves, suitable foot protection).**
Consult the manufacturer's manual for asphalt equipment and safety data sheet(s) for release agents for more information.
- **In the event that a repair is needed, employees should be trained to understand their employer's control of hazardous energy program so as to ensure that workers are not exposed to hazards while performing these activities.**

REQUIRED:

- Employers must report all work-related fatalities to PEOSH **within eight (8) hours**
- Employers must report all work-related in-patient hospitalizations, amputations, and losses of an eye to PEOSH **within twenty-four (24) hours**.

24-HOUR PEOSH REPORTING HOTLINE:



(800) 624-1644



FAX: (609) 292-3749