



# Tailgate Safety Talk

## Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

**Here are some basic safety guidelines. There may be additional steps to discuss depending on the type of equipment you are using and operator knowledge and experience.**

1. Perform a pre-operational check of the equipment and be familiar with the operator's manual. Report needed repairs promptly and don't use any equipment that is unsafe.
2. Always know the location of fire extinguishers and make sure they are properly charged.
3. Use hot-work type gloves when handling heated spray bar sections or hoses.
4. When readying a distributor for heating, make sure it is parked in a level position and located a safe distance from buildings and other flammable materials.
5. To avoid having hot material overflow from the tank, allow enough space in the tank for expansion of the material when heated. Don't overfill and keep tank and burner areas clean. Keep covers closed but unlatched during heating to prevent explosions and escape of flammable vapors.
6. To prevent an explosion or possible fire, do not operate burners unattended or while the vehicle is in motion or in a confined area. Burners should only be lit when completely covered by liquid asphalt.
7. To prevent a sudden flash, don't heat material beyond the manufacturer's recommended temperature. A dense yellow cloud or vapor, rising from the distributor or kettle, is an indication that the material is being overheated to the extent that a small spark is sufficient to ignite the vapors.
8. Remember that the flash point of the material can be exceeded before it actually reaches spraying or working temperature. Additional caution must be exercised to prevent the exposure of rising fumes to an open flame.
9. Plan ahead to minimize or eliminate backing. Always check to the rear before backing and use a spotter if available. Make sure backup alarms are working properly.
10. No riders are permitted anywhere except in the cab when the vehicle is moving.
11. Operators should be aware of employees and others on foot in the work zone. Avoid fumes from hot bituminous material – stay on the windward side of the work.
12. Don't leave equipment unattended with the engine running. Shut off the engine and set the parking brake when the equipment is not in use.
13. If the distributor is equipped with an AC engine heater, first switch the current off and then unplug the heater before getting into the vehicle.

*Users of this tailgate 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.*