



Kentucky League of Cities

HAZARD ALERT

HAZARDS OF CLEANING YOUR HOT ASPHALT PATCHING TRAILER

In the past few months, KLC members have had workers injured while cleaning a hot asphalt patching trailer (hot box). These trailers are designed to transport, store, and maintain the ideal temperature of hot mix asphalt for patching holes in city streets.



Hot box trailers have burners to heat the asphalt in the hopper to the optimal working temperature. The heated asphalt and the burners present a hazard where flammable materials (depending on their flashpoint) could ignite and burn employees.

In the most serious incidents, employees were cleaning the hot box after use. Employees were using diesel fuel and sprayed the inside of the hot box. The diesel fuel combusted and shot a flame out of the hot box, burning the employee. Manufacturers prohibit the use of diesel fuel as a cleaner. To prevent burns, always use a non-flammable, environmentally friendly product to clean the asphalt hot patcher.

Please remember these important safety tips when working with a hot box:

- Take care when using doors, and keep your hands clear to prevent crushing injuries
- Employees should be properly trained in the use and maintenance of the equipment.

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not attempt service and maintenance until the device is completely cooled.
- Make sure proper PPE is worn, including but not limited to safety glasses, long-sleeve shirts, long pants, and thermal-insulated gloves.
- Always use a non-flammable, non-hazardous solvent to clean the hot box.
- Do not use diesel fuel or kerosene as a cleaning agent.



If you have any questions regarding this hazard alert, please reach out to your KLC loss control representative.



Questions? KLC is here to help!
Please contact Aaron Parrish (aparrish@klc.org) or Ben Cook (bcook@klc.org) with KLC Loss Control at 800.876.4552 or visit klc.org for more information.



Aaron Parrish



Ben Cook