



Learning from Incidents - Flash Fire Incident

Incident Summary

Wheelbarrow



Picture 1: Wheelbarrow used to heat up Asphalt



Picture 2: LPG used for heating



Picture 3: Sanitiser used to speed up softening process



31st March 2023



13H50 (South Africa Time)



Depot, Durban

Incident Description

Activity	Pothole repair
Incident Statement	4 contractors were in the process of preparing Asphalt by heating in a wheelbarrow. One of the team member fetched and poured flammable substance into the wheelbarrow that was still being heated using LPG blow torch. A flash fire occurred after pouring the substance
Immediate Action Taken	• The ERP was activated, and the Emergency Response Team attended to the IPs. • The IPs were treated at the Clinic and later taken to a local hospital • Equipment involved in the incident has been secured
Impact	Burn injury resulting in Lost Time Injurie (LTI)
Incident Classification	3 Lost Time Injuries (LTIs), 1 Medical Treatment Case (MTC)

Findings

Findings #1 –Non -Compliance to Permit To Work (PTW)

- Inadequate hazard identification (Hot surface, Moving vehicle, pressurized substances LPG, hazard impose to pedestrian)
- Inadequate mitigation in place (Area was not barricaded and warning sign was not in place at the worksite and preparation area, no firewatcher)

Findings #2 –Risk Assessment was not sighted

- No JHA conducted for this job as it was perceived as routine and low risk job

Finding #3 – Pothole Patch Work Instruction (WI) was under draft

- The pothole repair procedure was not reviewed and approved due to the migration of documents

Findings

Finding #4 – Sanitizer usage in cold tar asphalt

- Based on the interview with IPs sanitizer was used in previous jobs

Finding #5 – No supervisor present at site

- The transition structure which came into effect post shutdown does not indicate the post (position) for supervisor. No supervisor appointed for the pothole patching job

Finding #6 – Maintenance Work Management for Internal Contractors

- There were no maintenance work process for corrective maintenance conducted by contractors

Finding #7 – Delay in Emergency Response Team

- Delay in arrival of Emergency response team due to confusion caused by inadequate organizational management of change



Thank You