Asphalt Paving Safety

Asphalt paving is one of the higher risk occupations in the construction industry. In addition to the danger of working in close proximity to heavy equipment, complex machinery, and hot asphalt, (which can be offset by training and experience) there is frequently the hazard of working close to vehicle traffic. Though very specific safeguards can be put in place against the hazards of working in traffic, asphalt workers must always be aware that the traffic is ultimately controlled by individual drivers who may be inexperienced, unskilled, inattentive, or even impaired. There is often no safety guard against these drivers other than the asphalt workers constant alertness, and attention to the conditions of the jobsite and fellow workers.

General heavy equipment precautions which apply to paving equipment:
• 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.
• Before repairs are made, workers must comply with Lockout/Blockout requirements.
• Whenever equipment operations encroach on a public thoroughfare, a system of traffic controls must be used.
• Flaggers are required at all locations where barricades or warning signs cannot control moving traffic.
• Machines must be equipped with operable service, emergency, and parking brakes.
• All vehicles must be equipment with a manually operated warning device.

Precautions for paving equipment operations and crew:
• Asphalt material ready for application can cause serious burns. It will quickly heat metal tools or equipment in contact with the asphalt. The material itself should be treated as a hazard.
• All personnel must wear required Personal Protective Equipment and approved high visibility warning vests must be worn at all times.
• Make sure personnel involved in work are well trained for the job assigned and familiar with your crew’s particular routine.
• Do not move between the paving machine and backing trucks.
• Do not work or stand near the hopper of the paving machine when a materials truck is making its initial dump. Asphalt packed or settled in the truck bed from travel may suddenly break free and discharge, cresting over the hopper.
• Exercise caution when trucks are delivering asphalt, the truck driver may not be familiar or experience with paving operations.
• Idle down any piece of equipment and securely set parking brake before leaving the operators station, even if only for a short time.
• Do not leave paving machine unattended while the screed is heating.
• Paving machine operators must signal any time they intend to resume travel from a stationary position.
• Never operate a paving machine at speeds which will cause ground personnel to work carelessly. If production requirements demand it, assign more personnel to the paving operations.
• Watch out for co-workers; personnel concentrating on their assigned duties may be completely unaware of possible hazards.

General Precautions for paving in moving traffic situations:
• Check local codes for traffic control regulations; if permissible (and reasonable) apply more stringent traffic control devices to the operations. Schedule work during low traffic hours if possible.
• Inspect traffic control signs, barricades, and other devices at regular intervals.
• Use look-outs and spotters in high density traffic conditions to alert crews of dangerous situations.
• Unsafe conditions and situations must be reported to supervisors immediately. Work must be halted when hazards appear and may not resume until the unsafe situation is corrected.
• During night operations, light all traffic control devices, reduce traffic speeds, and reduce spacing of barricades and cones.
• Use 2-way radio communication for personnel working outside of vocal or visual range.

Conclusion: Many state, county, and municipal districts now require law enforcement personnel to be present on highway construction and other paving operations as traffic control at intersections and as emergency response. Whenever possible, have law enforcement personnel park their vehicle on the oncoming traffic end of the project site in a highly visible location and turn on their flashing roof lights. This will cause motorists to focus more attention on obeying traffic control measures.
Asphalt Paving Safety - (Continued from front)

Foreman’s Check List:

☐ Posting Notices Accessible - Identify Location
☐ GCC Code of Safe Practices Accessible
☐ USA Notified/Lines Marked (800) 227-2600
☐ PG&E Notified/10’ Rule (800) 743-5000
☐ Required Cal/OSHA Permit(s) obtained
☐ Emergency Exit Routes/Meeting Location Identified
☐ Special Hazards Identified
☐ Fire Extinguishers Charged & Accessible
☐ First Aid Kit Stocked and Accessible
☐ Trenching operations & requirements reviewed
☐ Flagging Operations Reviewed
☐ Housekeeping/Storage & Handling Requirements Reviewed
☐ Personal Protective Equipment Reviewed
☐ Equipment Inspected (faulty/damaged equipment must be tagged and returned to the Santa Rosa Yard)
☐ MSDS are available for all substances present at the jobsite
☐ Hazard inspections and corrections are documented

Reminders:

☐ Work-related injuries MUST be reported immediately
☐ GCC uses designated medical providers for treatment of work-related injuries
☐ All accidents and near-miss incidents must be reported
☐ No employee can enter a trench exceeding 5’ deep unless advised that is is safe by the competent person
☐ MSDS sheets are available for review - do not work with any product that you are not familiar with
☐ Do not enter areas where substances are being used by other contractors, unless trained on the proper safety precautions
☐ Horseplay is not permitted
☐ Daily jobsite walkthroughs must be performed
☐ No employee is permitted to perform any task that they have not been trained to perform
☐ All potential and/or identified hazards must be reported to allow for immediate correction and communication of exposure to other workers
☐ Discuss parking arrangements for the project

Special Topics for Project (address specific exposures, MSDS reviewed, etc.):

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Safety Recommendations & Employee Comments:

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Tailgate Meeting Attended By (employees are required to sign/print name):

Signature includes confirmation of the following:

- In the last week I have not suffered any work-related injury or illness that has not been reported to my Supervisor
- In the last week I have not been denied my authorized 10-minute breaks
- In accordance with Prop 65 requirements, I have been notified that I may be working in areas, or with products, which contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause Cancer and Birth Defects or Other Reproductive Harm

Su firma incluye la confirmación de lo siguiente:

- En la semana pasada no he sufrido ninguna lesión o enfermedad relacionada con el trabajo que no haya sido reportada a mi Supervisor.
- En la semana pasada no he sido prevenido de tomar mis descansos autorizados de 10 minutos.
- De acuerdo con los requerimientos de la Prop. 65, se me ha notificado que yo pudiera estar trabajando en áreas o con productos que contienen químicos conocidos por el Estado de California como causantes de Cáncer, Defectos de Nacimiento u otro Daño Reproductivo.

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_____________________________________________________________________________________________
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Safety Prize Winner: ________________________

Supervisor (Print Name): ________________________  Date: ________________