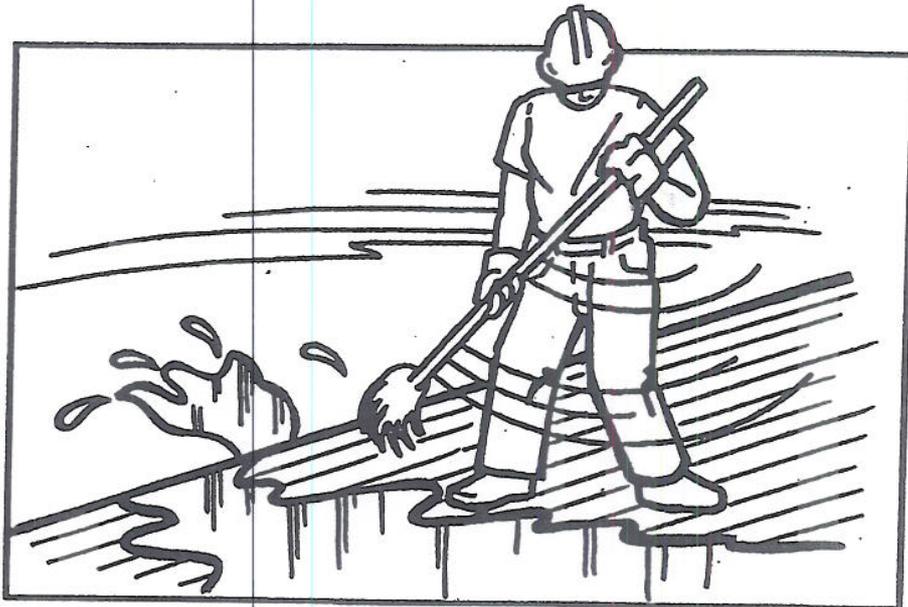


TOOLBOX TOPICS

ROOFING ACCIDENT

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

During the course of replacing a roof on the top of an occupied apartment complex the roofers began placing hot tar on the roof without checking to see if the apartments were occupied at the time. The occupants were not given any warning to remain indoors because hot tar was being poured. At no time did the roofers inform either the owner of the property or the occupants of the process. The roofers failed to place protective barricades along the side of the apartment to prevent someone from passing under the hot tar area while pouring occurred.



A minor who was unaware of the danger was accidentally poured with hot tar that had carelessly mopped over the edge. As a result the child suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exceptional care must be taken when applying hot asphalt near the edge of a roof. Not only is it sloppy and messy, you create more work having to clean it up later and more importantly creating an accident if someone happens to be below. Roofers need to check who may be working or standing below and warn workers and others such as curious school children of the dangers of hot tar roofing. Always place the appropriate barricade and warning devices as recommended by OSHA and the National Roofing Contractors Association.

