



# Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office

Bulletin 13-09

## Heating Devices and Melting Kettles

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (Yellow Book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the change for heating devices and melting kettles as stated below.

### 06.C.01 Heating devices and melting kettles.

- a. Heating devices and melting kettles shall be placed on firm, level, non-combustible foundations and shall be protected against traffic, accidental tipping, or similar hazards and, whenever possible, shall be placed downwind from employees or occupied buildings.
- b. A method to contain uncontrolled spills of the heated material, which might be on fire, shall be developed. The placement of a fire retardant tarp under the kettle (or other effective means) shall be used.
- c. A minimum of two (2) fire extinguishers, rated not less than 2A:20B:C, shall be available within 25 ft (7.6 m) of the working kettles. > **Hot work permits shall be required on Government installations unless otherwise indicated by the GDA.**
- d. The kettle operator must be trained in the proper operation of the kettle and have knowledge of the material being heated so as to not allow the material to be heated beyond the allowable temperature. A working thermometer shall be provided and used.
- e. Heating devices and melting kettles shall not be left unattended when in use. When the kettle is heating material to the working temperature, the operator must be located on the same level as the kettle, be within eyesight and be within 25 ft (7.6 m) of the kettle. > **See 09.J.03.**
- f. Bituminous-material melting kettles shall be provided with an effective tight fitting lid or hood, and a calibrated thermometer in operating condition.
  - (1) The temperature shall be maintained 25° below the flash point of the bituminous material.
  - (2) All melting kettles shall be sized for the job.
  - (3) The size and weight of the kettle must not exceed the structural capacity of the roof deck.
- g. Bituminous-material melting kettles shall not be used or operated inside, atop, or within 25 ft (7.6 m) of buildings or combustible materials, including propane tanks stored or in use. The lid for the kettle should open away from the building.
- h. The liquid propane container(s) used as the heat source shall be kept at least 10 ft (3 m) away from the kettle and shall be placed in an upright and secured position to insure it doesn't tip over.
- i. Kettles shall be located so that means of egress is not restricted and shall be no closer than 10 ft (3 m) of egress path.



Please post and share with others

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