Bitumen Spillage

WHAT HAPPENED

While mixing the first batch of the day the plant operator noticed that the bitumen was not weighing up, although the bitumen pump was running.

- On investigation the operator could see bitumen flowing down through the plant.

- The operation was stopped and the bitumen was safely cleaned up.

- No one was working in the area and no injuries occurred.

- The initial investigation has identified that the bitumen weigh kettle had overfilled.

- The cause of the overfilling was a fuse failure on the weighing system, which meant that the control system was showing a zero reading.

- There is no fail safe for this bitumen system i.e. a probe or a counter, which would stop the bitumen pump.



Top of kettle



Underneath kettle

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

The investigation is ongoing, but in the interim managers are advised to review their bitumen systems to:

- Establish if any part of the bitumen system fails does it fail to safe. i.e close the system down fully

- What is in place to indicate if the kettle is full



Spillage

LOCATION:	**ASPHALT/COATING PLANT**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**01/06/2020 12:25:11**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**ASPHALT & COATED STONE**	**INCIDENT No:**	**02562**