BEST PRACTICE

LOCATION:	**Asphalt/Coating plant**	**ARTICLE YEAR**	**2013**
ACTIVITY:	**Maintenance & Housekeeping**	**COMPANY:**	**Aggregate Industries**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**N/A**	**COMPANY LOCATION:**	**Moorcroft Asphalt**
BEST PRACTICE No:	**BP895**	**COMPANY TEL:**	**07733 300271**
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:	**United Kingdom**		

TITLE

Clearing blockage using a Thermowrap system

ARTICLE

DESCRIPTION

Moorcroft Asphalt Plant is using a novel solution for clearing blockages caused by cold bitumen. The traditional method was to use a naked flame to heat the offending pipe or valve and allow the product to drain under gravity. This exposes the operator to the risk of burns, spillages, fire, working at height and others. An alternative is to allow the pipework to go cold, disconnect and then either heating and cleaning out or replacing, this process has similar risks.

The solution has been to use the Bitumen Thermopipewrap System. This is a simple heated mat, inspired by Formula 1 tyre heater technology, it is wrapped around the item to be warmed, is fixed into position utilising a Velcro system and then plugged in to either 110v or 240v electrical feed. The Thermowrap heats up to the pre-set temperature and the solidified bitumen in the pipe, valve or pump then turns back into fluid state and flows out using gravity. The flow of bitumen is slight as the temperature rises so removal is under tight control at all times.

The method utilising the Thermopipewrap is safer, reduces downtime, and the cost of the item compared to traditional methods is vastly reduced.

BENEFITS

- Reduction of hazards particularly the risk of fire and spillages
- Improved and safer working methods
- Reduction in costs, plant down time and use of replacement parts
- A happier workforce

ARTICLE IMAGES

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