

Dear All

As many of you know, last year we had a fire at the Ocean Estate project. What you may not know is that we also had a fire on the back of one of our trucks ...only a week later.

These fires were actually related. Both were caused by pots being used on wooden pallets. Now, It may seem like we are teaching your Grandmother how to suck eggs, but listed below is the correct procedure for using pots. Please reacquaint yourselves:

## SAFE USE OF ASPHALT MELTING POTS

- Always locate the pot atop a **metal** tray (not a wooden pallet!) filled with damp sand or water, dry powder fire extinguishers must visibly accompany each pot, in fact all areas where using propane gas.
- Hot works permits must be implemented on a daily basis, and before any hot works are performed. Working plant must be checked and signed-off before any works commence and then, once these works are completed for that day, you must allow a period of one hour to monitor the cooling of the equipment used (Fire Watch), then and **only then**, should you get the permit signed off. The permits are issued by either a GA supervisor or the main contractor on site. It is the hot works operator's responsibility to obtain the permit.
- Melting plant shall not be lit before 8.00am. Operatives are never to leave melting plant unattended. When in use, a watchman must stay with the mixer, **even during tea/dinner breaks**. The mixer must then be shut down at least one hour before the end of the shift, in accordance with the hot works permit system.
- Propane gas cylinders must always be stored (and used!) upright. We supply two sizes of cylinders 47kg and 19kg. These must be sited a minimum of three metres from any naked flame. Those cylinders not in use must be returned immediately to the nearest (GA allocated) site gas cage.

## Under no circumstances are pots to be lit while on wooden pallets.

Our trade is considered risky by many of clients. We have to regularly allay those fears by reminding them that you are time served professionals. Accidents like these set us back years and cost us all work in the future. Many builders are favouring other waterproofing technologies, not because they are better products, or cheaper, but because they believe they carry less risk. That sentiment is damaging our industry, which affects us all.  
Please be careful.



The propane crimp rings (shown above) are the securing ring of choice for propane hoses. If you don't have these, or a crimping tool to fix them, you must contact Gregg immediately at the office.

Some of you may have heard that the government has scrapped Health and Safety laws regarding the use of hard hats on sites. This has been widely mis-reported.

Hard hats are still a requirement for use, anywhere that there is a risk of debris falling. In any case, our clients, the site agents, are perfectly within their rights to demand any level of PPE usage that they deem necessary. We must abide by those rules, which will be clarified during induction. If you have any queries, please ask Gregg. He will double-check with the client if anything is unclear.

**You do not, even as roofers, have a right to not wear a hat!**