



Emergency Shower

Eurobitume UK

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Introduction

- A working emergency shower to cool the affected area is the best immediate first aid for the majority of bitumen burns casualties
- The quicker the casualty receives first aid treatment the less likely there will be permanent damage to the skin
- Leave the bitumen in place. It circumferential then request **URGENT** medical attention – split or soften to avoid tourniquet effect



What We Know

- When an accident has occurred, the affected area should be cooled as quickly as possible to prevent further damage, following the advice on the Eurobitume Bitumen Burns Card
- The burn should be drenched in water for at least 15 minutes for the skin and at least 5 minutes for the eyes
- However, body hypothermia must be avoided



What The Guidance Says

- The shower should be between 6 and 20 metres from the discharge point
- If the emergency shower is within 6 metres, it must be screened
- Precautions must be taken to protect the shower from freezing and an alternative source provided if frozen
- Advice on the treatment of bitumen burns must be displayed in the delivery area
- Eurobitume Bitumen Burns Card



Best Practice

The emergency shower must : -

- Have clear safe emergency access, together with clearly visible signs indicating its position
- Be easily operated by an operative in distress, e.g. a foot plate
- Be subjected to a regular and documented maintenance and inspection regime

It is recommended that the emergency shower is alarmed to ensure that site management is aware of its use



Bitumen Safety Documentation

The following documents can be downloaded free from the RBA web site:

- Emergency Safety Shower Guidance
- Guide to Safe Delivery of Bitumen (UK Edition)
- Bitumen Discharge Permit
- Bitumen HSE Training Package
- Eurobitume Bitumen Burns Card

www.bitumenuk.com/healthsafety-safety.asp

