



Yeovil Hospital: Hot Work (HW) Incident 22.08.24

An error judgement during the application of a self-adhesive bituminous membrane led to an emergency evacuation of some parts of Yeovil Hospital.

Incident Details:

Whilst applying a **self-adhesive** bituminous underlayer, a roofing operative needlessly used an LPG torch to heat the underlayer.

The flame of the LPG torch came into direct contact with an existing fibrous angle fillet causing it to smoulder.

The resulting smell of burning & smoke noticed by hospital staff on the floor below resulted in the evacuation of some parts of the hospital.

Causal Analysis:

- **Immediate Cause:** The use of the LPG torch
- **Underlying Cause:** Custom & Practice: It not uncommon for felt roofing operatives to apply heat to all types of bituminous roofing products in order to achieve a watertight seal.
- **Root Cause:** A failure to specify a completely heat free bituminous roofing product (the capping layer of the specified system required heat applied).

Learning points:

- **Project specific risks** associated with all HW activities are to be identified at pre-construction stage with a view to design out HW wherever possible.
- All operatives undertaking HW to have proof of HW awareness training.
- Thermal Imaging of area to be undertaken before HW commences.
- Requirements for continuous fire watches to be rigorously implemented.



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design



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REFERENCE

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SHE-ALT-2022/YH1

OCT 2024

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