

TAR KETTLE FIRES

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for incidents involving tar kettle fires.

PROCEDURE

1. Turn off burners (usually propane fired).
2. Close covers (use pike poles to maintain distance).
3. Use hose stream to cool exterior (do not direct it inside).
4. Considerations:
 - A. Pour small amounts of water into vents.
 - B. Discharge dry chemical extinguisher into vent pipes.
5. Have protective hoselines in place and charged.
6. If tar contacts skin, cool immediately, do not remove.
7. Protect nearby exposures.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Vat working temperature: 425 – 450° F.
- Flash point: 450 – 550° F.
- Tar is a respiratory irritant; Hydrogen Sulfide is produced during fire conditions.
- Adding water can cause dangerous steam explosions.
- Petroleum asphalt is insoluble in water or alcohol.