



SAFETY BULLETIN



Safety Bulletin Number: **00000013**

Issued **March 29, 2022**, by the **Occupational Health and Safety Division**, Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Fire Protection for Applying Roofing Membrane

Legal information

Issued pursuant to section 25(1) of the Occupational Safety General Regulations

Summary

This Safety Bulletin being issued as a result of an incident that occurred when a roofer's torch came into contact with the cardboard in the center of a roll of roofing membrane. An employee took measures to ensure the cardboard that had caught fire was put out. However, even though it appeared to be extinguished, it was still smoldering, and then came in contact with flammable materials which caused an uncontrolled fire resulting in significant damage to the entire roof.

Be aware that:

- When torching the membrane, the cardboard center core may catch on fire. If not properly extinguished, the core may smolder and come in contact with flammable materials on the roof igniting those items.
- A chemical fire extinguisher may not be adequate to completely extinguish the core should it be on fire. A water fire extinguisher or large bucket of water must be available in the immediate area so the center core can be completely extinguished by dousing it or placing it in the water.
- Any time the torch comes close to the roll of membrane, and there is the potential that the center cardboard core may have been ignited, the roll must be fully submersed or covered with water.

Contact for bulletin queries

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