

**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.