



Asphalt Plants are required in our modern world. In the right place the risk they present can be manageable. Typical on site storage of Bitumen, Solvents, Diesel, etc....constitute real hazards for ground water, health and uncontrollable flammable situations. Is the proposed location (with the recognized environmental risks and sensitive land use) and our current services available good risk management?



The fire can be so hot and toxic that first responders have to assess the fire from a distance to determine if adequate resources and time are available to stabilize and extinguish. These Plants are supposed to have their own fire suppression systems and rescue plans. The reality is that when things go wrong like here in Calgary, it is the local Fire Dept. who ends up dealing with the emergency (extinguishment, rescue, etc..)



This is a picture of a diesel tank BLEVE (boiling liquid expanding vapour explosion). Due to inadequate time or resources to prevent the BLEVE- the fire dept. set up an exclusion zone to minimize the explosion danger. They will extinguish after the BLEVE.



Emergency response requirements at an Industrial facility often requires specialized equipment. In 2010, the City of Ottawa assets in Specialty Equipment alone was approximately \$10 million. This was to equip speciality teams; hazmat team, confined space, extrication, high-angle etc... This does not include training and on going supplies required.



In a rural setting with no fire hydrant services the Fire Dept. must supply the water for extinguishment. They rely on tanker trucks and water shuttle supply. This skill is practiced and planned for. There are ratings required for recognized water shuttle service which lowers insurance rates for residents of non-hydrant areas. Our Fire Chief plans, budgets and trains to meet these requirements.



This picture illustrates on a large scale industrial water needs to control tanks of Flammable liquids to prevent BLEVE, collapse and exposures.



For years Foam has been used to extinguish Flammable liquid fires (suppress, cool, smother and separate). The foam and related equipment is expensive, it requires training and replenishment with an ongoing budget.



Sand and other means are used to keep contaminated water or foam 'contained' something that is not possible when a spill or fire occurs on karst bedrock where water can quickly flow through cracks into the subsurface water before containment.



Industrial facilities have many confined spaces which employees are required to enter. In the event of an emergency our Fire Dept. has not been given resources and time to bring our level of service from Awareness to Technical/Operations level.



Once removed from a confined space, high angle teams lower the patient for Transport to a local Hospital.



So the question remains: Is the proposed location (with the recognized environmental risks and sensitive land use) and our current services available good risk management? You cannot fit a square peg in a round hole. This plant does not fit into the Jessup's Falls Escarpment Area.