



Safety Tip of the Week

Your Safety Is Our Business®

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Safety in Hot Work

Welding is a routine job on many worksites. However, this common task has hazards that can result in serious injury and property damage.

Experts estimate that 6% of all fires on industrial properties are caused by welding or cutting. The main cause is the sparks or hot slag welding necessarily produces.



Pre-Planning:

Pre-planning includes a hazard assessment to:

- Identify existing and potential hazards; and
- Eliminate or control these hazards.

Questions to consider before beginning hot work:

- Does everyone understand the scope of the work?
- Have all the affected employees been notified?
- Have security, emergency response personnel, and affected workers in the area been notified?
- Has the permit been filled out?
- Has the area been inspected before hot work is to start?
- Are all flammables/combustibles removed from the area?
- Has the area been evaluated to ensure that no flammable vapors are present?
- Is a fire extinguisher available?
- Are immovable fire hazards covered with a tarp or other non-combustible covering?
- Have employees been told to immediately stop hot work if conditions change, odors become present, etc., until the area is re-inspected?

Summary:

You can protect yourself from the physical hazards of welding. Correct any situations that pose a fire or electrical shock hazard. If you have a safety concern about welding hazards, don't let it become an accident - report it to your supervisor.

“Don't Get 'Burned'... Practice Welding Safety”

