

Safe Hot Work Procedures

Hot work is any work that involves burning, welding, cutting, brazing, soldering, grinding, using fire or spark producing tools, or other work that produces a source of ignition. The intense heat and sparks produced while performing hot work can lead to fire. If performing hot work, it is important that management and employees understand and follow safe hot work procedures. A few safe hot work guidelines are listed below.

- Combustible and flammable material within 35 feet of the hot work area should be removed.
 - When combustibles cannot be removed, they should be covered with UL listed, fire resistant coverings, separated from the working area by fire resistive partitions.
 - If fire resistant coverings and partitions are not available, wet down the entire working area immediately prior to hot work.
- At least one commercial grade fire extinguisher should be located in plain sight, within 10 feet of the working area.
- Hot work should be performed earlier in the work shift, or at a minimum of two hours before the end of the working day.
- All hot work areas should be monitored by a competent person required to maintain surveillance of areas where hot work has occurred, otherwise known as a fire watch. The fire watch must maintain a lookout for small fires and smoke started by the sparks and slag that has been disposed of in non-combustible containers.

In addition to the fire prevention methods listed above, it is imperative to have all equipment inspected for leaks, tears, and loose connections. Welding equipment should be in good condition and have safety devices such as flashback arrestors and reverse flow check valves, to help prevent serious injuries or fires in the event of a flashback.

One of the most common welding and cutting methods is oxyfuel welding, commonly referred to as oxy welding, gas welding, or Acetylene & Oxygen welding (A&O). A&O welding equipment is commonly found in repair garages from farms to construction contractors. Before welding or cutting, the user must inspect his/her equipment for defects. The reverse side of this page lists some common items that should be inspected prior to hot work. For a complete list, please refer to the original equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

SAMPLE

Pre-Hot Work Inspection Checklist

Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Inspected by: _____



- ☐ Regulators and gauges are in good condition, and the lenses are free of cracks and defects.
- ☐ There is no grease or oil present. If grease or oil is detected, do not use.
- ☐ Oxygen valves have been cracked open before attaching to a regulator, to blow out any foreign matter or dust that may have accumulated.
- ☐ The torch is in good condition with no visible defects such as burnt or blocked tips present.
- ☐ Inlet connections are tight.
- ☐ The welding hose is free from any defects such as cuts, bulges, or abrasions that breach the outer surface.
- ☐ The welding equipment is equipped with reverse flow check valves, which are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and are in good condition.
- ☐ The welding equipment contains flashback arrestors that are in good condition, and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ Any equipment with observed defects are removed from service and replaced or repaired.
- ☐ A commercial grade fire extinguisher is visible and located within 10 feet of the working area.
- ☐ The working area is free of any combustible and flammable materials within a 35 foot radius.

Following safe hot work procedures can help decrease fire hazards in areas where hot work is performed.

For more information regarding safe hot work procedures and fire prevention, please contact Acadia's Virtual Loss Control Team at 207-874-5701 or virtuallc@acadia-ins.com.

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