

SAFETY TOOL BOX MEETING

NO 18 - WELDING SAFELY

There are several potential hazards when undertaking welding and cutting operations, by your actions you can prevent these hazards, protect yourself and protect others.

The general hazards and their solutions are as follows:-

1. LIGHT RAYS

(Infrared, Visible Light and Ultra Violet radiation). Hot Metal and Sparks cause eye damage and can burn the skin. Therefore, wear correct eye and body protection.

EYE PROTECTION

For most welding and cutting operations filter lenses are required but for all operations where sparks and hot metal splash is possible, eye protection MUST be worn.

CLOTHING

Flame resistance materials are required for body, hand and foot protection, leather being the favorite for heavy works. Clothing should not retain sparks and synthetic fabrics should not be used. These melt when contacted by sparks. DO NOT WEAR A HIGH VISIBILITY VEST.

2. FUMES AND GASES

Welding and cutting of all metals produces fumes which can harm the respiratory system whilst fumes from galvanized, lead or toxic coated materials can also affect the rest of the body.

PROTECTION

Wear correctly filtered respirators for low volume works, use and exhaust ventilation system for large concentrations of welders or where working in 'confined spaces' (additional precautions WILL be necessary - see your supervisor) – know your method statement.

3. COMPRESSED GASES

Compressed gases can cause fires or explosions due to their being either highly flammable or under pressure.

I have given the above talk to all men under my control.

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PRECAUTIONS

Only have the required amount of cylinders at work position (1 days supply). Store spares correctly in a storage area.

Use a bottle trolley to secure cylinders upright.

Flash back arrestors must be fitted at cylinder gauge ends and non-return valves at the inlets to the blowpipe.

Close valves before moving cylinders and after use.

Do not allow cylinders to become heated. Keep oil away from oxygen cylinders, valves etc. If you suspect a leak, move the cylinder into the open air and notify suppliers.

Always ensure that you work within the control of the hot work permit system.

Do not weld material degreased with solvents unless it is absolutely dry.

Always have the right fire extinguisher at hand.

NO 18 - WELDING SAFELY continued

4. ELECTRICITY

When electric arc welding the greatest danger is from electric shock.

PRECAUTIONS

Never touch live metal parts with bare skin or wet clothing.

Ensure cables electrode holders and cable connections are in good condition and insulation is complete.

Ensure welding machine is correctly earthed.

Do not weld whilst standing in water or change electrodes whilst on a wet or earthed surface.

Do not connect earth lead to electrical circuits or pipes containing flammable materials.

Arc Eye – erect barriers to reduce the risk to other personnel who may be working or passing through the area adjacent to your work area.

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5. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

Welding and cutting operations cause many fires on construction sites.

PRECAUTIONS

Ensure you have a Hot Work Permit from Al Khodari.

Ensure area is free of flammable materials before starting work and check area after completion for likely smoldering materials

BEWARE OF ARC EYE - PROTECT YOUR EYES

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