

WELDING, CUTTING, AND BURNING SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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OH&S Code Part 10 Section 169 & 171

Welding, cutting, and burning are frequently done on construction sites and require specific personal protective equipment (PPE) to perform. They can increase fire and breathing hazards.

Welding, cutting, and burning safe work practices

These safe work practices should be followed when welding, cutting, or burning:

AUTHORIZATION

- Inform the Supervisor of any hot work that will be done on the site
- Complete a *Hot work permit* before starting any welding, cutting, or burning
- **Do not** start work without proper authorization PPE
- Wear an approved welding hood
- Wear a hard hat with a welding hood attachment in hard hat areas
- Wear non-combustible clothing with button collars and cuffs

WORK SITE AWARENESS

- Inspect cutting equipment for leaks prior to use.
- Ensure that adequate ventilation is supplied (hazardous fumes can be created during welding, cutting, or burning)
- Alert workers that may be exposed to the hazards created by welding, cutting, or burning, or use “screens” or shields to protect them
- **Warning: Do not enter, weld, or cut in a confined space without proper atmospheric tests and the development of a safety entry and work plan**

FIRE PREVENTION & PROTECTION

- Always have the fire extinguisher or fire prevention equipment on hand before starting welding, cutting, or burning
- Before starting work, check the work area for combustible material and flammable vapours
- When working overhead, use fire resistant materials (blankets, tarps) to control or contain slag and sparks
- **Do not** perform cutting and welding where sparks and cutting slag will fall on fuel cylinders (move all cylinders away to one side)
- Remove or protect combustible materials from the sparks and heat created by welding

- A fire watch must be implemented for 1 hour following completion of hot work if it is done near combustible materials

FURTHER SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Check cables and hoses to protect them from slag or sparks
- **Do not** coil welding cables around your body when welding
- **Do not** weld or cut lines, drums, tanks, etc. that have been in service before making sure all precautions have been carried out and permits obtained
- Open all cylinder valves slowly
- Keep the wrench used for opening the cylinder valves on the valve spindle when the cylinder is in use
- Close cylinder valves when the work is finished
- All work must have a separate and adequate ground
- Thoroughly dry an arc-welding machine before starting work

Related Documentation:

R-12 Hot Work Permit

Fire Extinguishers

Respiratory Code of Practice.

Welders Guide to the Hazards of Welding Gases and Fumes (WHS)

Confined Space

Managing Hot Work (WHS)