

# Staying Safe While Performing Welding, Cutting and Other Hot Work: An Introduction

Hot work, such as welding, cutting, brazing and/or grinding can present a significant opportunity for fire and/or injury. The purpose of this guide is to help ensure a safe and healthy environment exists whenever hot work is conducted. Company employees and/or contractors should apply all components of a hot work program before commencing any hot work.

## Responsibilities

It is important to clearly communicate assigned responsibilities to all employees and contractors within the hot work program. Examples include:

### Management

- Provide training for all employees whose tasks include heat, spark or flame producing operations such as welding, brazing or grinding.
- Develop and monitor effective hot work procedures.
- Provide safe equipment for hot work.
- Provide proper and effective personal protective equipment (PPE) for all hot work.

### Supervisors

- Monitor all hot work operations.
- Ensure all hot work equipment and PPE are in safe working order.
- Allow only trained employees to conduct hot work.
- Ensure permits are used for all hot work outside of designated areas.

### Employees

- Follow all hot work procedures.
- Properly use appropriate hot work PPE.
- Inspect all hot work equipment before use.
- Report any equipment problems to their supervisor.
- Not use damaged hot work equipment.

Company employees and/or contractors should apply all components of a hot work program before commencing any hot work.



## Definitions

**Hot Work Procedures:** Processes such as arc welding, oxy-fuel gas welding, open-flame soldering, brazing, thermal spraying, oxygen cutting, arc cutting or any other activity which results in sparks, fire, molten slag or hot material and has the potential to cause fires or explosions.

**Hot Work Permit:** A document issued by the permit authorizing individual (PAI) for the purpose of authorizing the performance of hot work activity.

**Permit Authorizing Individual (PAI):** The individual designated by management to authorize hot work.

**Designated Area:** A permanent location designed or approved for hot work procedures not requiring a hot work permit for hot work procedures.

**Permit-Suggested Area:** Any area where hot work procedures are conducted that is not considered to be a designated area and is made fire-safe by removing or protecting combustibles from ignition sources.

**Management:** For the purpose of this guide, all persons, including owners, contractors, educators and so on, who are responsible for hot work operations.

**Fire Watch:** An employee designated to watch the hot work area for hazards and fires.

**Hazards:** For the purpose of this guide, hazards refer to fires and explosions, skin burns, welding “blindness”, foreign object eye injuries and respiratory hazards from fumes and smoke.

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