

Toolbox



Hot Work

OVERVIEW

“Hot work” is typically defined as any open-flame, spark or heat-producing activity and is normally associated with cutting, welding, and soldering operations.

DESIGNATED HOT WORK AREAS

A designated hot work area can be a permanent location designed for hot work or a temporary area where a smaller, quicker task is performed or where the hot work needs to take place on a large piece of stationary equipment or machinery.

The designated hot work area

- Should have non-combustible or fire-resistive characteristics and be essentially free of combustible materials and flammable liquids –especially gasoline storage containers or gasoline-powered equipment, loose paper, sawdust, packing materials, etc., or anything that can be easily ignited by a stray or lingering spark.
- The area should be suitably segregated from adjacent areas, either by permanent construction or approved portable fire resistant curtains, to keep the hot work operations separate from the rest of the building and to shield other employees from arc flash welding and UV radiation.
- An approved fire extinguisher should be kept nearby and the employees doing the hot work should be properly trained in how to use it.
- Depending on the operation and arrangement, either mechanical ventilation and/or natural ventilation should be in place to control smoke and fumes.

Note: Hot work taking place in a confined space requires additional safeguards that are not discussed in this document.

BEFORE AND AFTER HOT WORK OPERATIONS

1. Obtain and complete a Hot Work Permit from the appropriate authority. An example from the North Carolina Department of Labor website: <https://www.labor.nc.gov/documents/hot-work-permit>
2. When possible, hot work should be scheduled early in the day to allow for possible lingering fire hazards after the work is completed.
3. All combustible materials and flammable liquids should be removed from the area, at least a 35-foot radius.
4. All hot work equipment should be inspected for damage or other defects. Any deficiencies should be corrected before the hot work is started.
5. All loose-fitting clothing, long hair or jewelry should be tied back securely.
6. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be used at all times. All employees should be trained in the proper use of the required PPE, which should be inspected prior to use.
7. The hot work area should not be unattended while the operations are ongoing.
8. The fuel supply should be disconnected or shut off when the hot work is done.
9. The immediate area should be checked for stray or lingering sparks, and monitored for at least one hour after the hot work is done.
10. Complete and keep on file a post-hot-work checklist.

Date of Safety Talk _____

Company _____

Talk given by _____

Signature _____

Attending Employees:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Notes:

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