

## **Welding and Cutting**



Discussion Date.

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the Occupational Safety web page.

## **General Information**

Welding and cutting presents the risk of serious burns, electrical shock, and eye damage. The cutting and welding process emits sparks, which presents a fire hazard. However, following a few simple safety precautions can keep your welding and cutting activities injury-free.

## **Preventive Measures**

- Read the operator's manual and familiarize yourself with the cutting/welding equipment.
- Proper training.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment;
  - o welding gloves, long sleeved leathers or apron
  - welding helmet with appropriate filter shade
  - o safety glasses
  - leather boots
  - fire-resistant welding pants
- Ensure the work area is:
  - free of clutter
  - o free of combustible and flammable materials
  - ventilated (use engineered ventilation or a respirator)
- Ensure work is performed in a designated hot work area or a hot work permit is obtained.
- Ensure a fire extinguisher is readily available.
- Ensure the work piece is properly grounded when arc welding.
- When using gas cylinders, chain them securely to a stationary, upright support or cart at all times.
- Examine hoses/cables regularly for leaks, wear and loose connections.
- Inspect the cylinder valve for damage and/or the presence of contaminants such as oil, grease or dust before using.
- Handle hot metal with pliers or tongs.

## Resources

- https://www.millerwelds.com/
- https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/services/fire/hot-work

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