

Tips
Hot Work

Know how to use your tools and equipment



Hot Work

Hot work is any work involving processes that have the potential to cause a fire or explosion (e.g. gas cutting, gas or electric welding, grinding or heat gun operations).

- Where possible, hot work processes should be eliminated.
- When hot work processes are necessary, isolate the hot work from any combustible material.
- If isolation is not possible, try to reduce the hazard by substituting another process that produces less heat.

Prior to beginning hot work:

- hot work can produce significant quantities of visible light, ultraviolet and infra-red, which can cause eye damage and burns. Minimise your risk by wearing a head shield, gauntlets and fire-retardant overalls
- many welding processes produce fumes. Ensure the area is ventilated and consider the use of respiratory protection
- check that there are no combustible materials nearby
- ensure you have a hot work permit and have completed a hazard analysis
- maintain a watch until any risk of combustion has passed
- ensure there is a fire extinguisher available.

Be aware: *Fire from hot work can smoulder for several hours and spread, unnoticed, before breaking out into open flames. This means that by the time it's visible, personnel may have already left for the day.*