

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Cutting & Welding Safety

General Steps for Cutting with an Oxygen/Acetylene Torch:

- When attaching gauges to cylinders, use care not to over tighten them.
- Generally, the desired pressure for the acetylene gauge should never exceed 7-8 pounds unless a heating tip is used.
- The desired pressure for the oxygen gauge should not exceed 35-40 pounds up to a number 2 tip. Increase about 10 pounds per size number increase.
- Never use a cigarette lighter to light a torch, **ONLY USE A STRIKER**
- Anytime the torch will be used, proper PPE is required. Never use sunglasses to burn with because they are not the proper shade and will cause damage to the eyes. Minimum shade of burning goggles should be #5 green shade. Leather welding gloves should always be worn. These two items are always necessary but other accessories such as leather sleeves, ribs, spats, and other protective leather may be worn for comfort as well as safety.

Cutting and Welding Fires are Usually Caused by One of Three Things:

1. Sparks and Slag: can fall through cracks or openings in floors, under doors, on combustible material or on flammable liquids. Sparks can fly 35 feet horizontally, may smolder in cracks with fire breaking out after the end of the shift.
2. Metal: being cut or welded can transmit heat by conduction or radiation and start a fire in adjacent or nearby combustibles.
3. Torch: the cutting torch accidentally coming close to, or in contact with, combustible material can be a ready source of ignition.



To Prevent Cutting or Welding Fires:

- Move work to a safe place. If work can't be moved, remove combustibles from area or cover with fire retardant blanket.
- Sweep floors clean.
- Keep fire extinguishers handy and be fully knowledgeable in its use.
- Don't cut or weld in the presence of flammable liquids or vapors, in the presence of lint or dust, or on unpurged containers previously holding flammable liquids.
- Acetylene gas can 'pool' and ignite; avoid situations where the gas can "pool" if the valve is left open.
- Choose a safe direction for the cut so that the sparks are going in the direction you want.

