



5 SAFETY HINTS FOR HOT WORK

SAFETY TIPS n°57: Safety Hints for Hot Work

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It is assumed in this booklet that you are already familiar with the correct procedures for welding, brazing or gas cutting. If you are in any doubt, you should obtain a copy of the Occupational Safety & Health booklet Welding Safety.



Here are the main safety rules to observe:

1. CLOTHING

- Always wear industrial overalls and eye protection during welding and cutting work. Keep overalls fastened up to your neck and round your wrists;
- Wear safety footwear if you are handling heavy drums or tanks;

Wear gloves or gauntlets while arc welding to protect against shock, burns and radiation burns.

2. EQUIPMENT

- Make sure all equipment is in good order;
- Make sure flashback arrestors are fitted to gas welding gear;
- Beware of leaking hoses and connections which are not gas-tight;
- Check insulation of all cables on electric arc welding gear;

- Do not arc weld in wet conditions;
- Use an isolating transformer with all portable electrical equipment;
- Make sure welding screens are erected to protect others from ultraviolet radiation.

3. VENTILATION

- Make sure your work area is well ventilated. The ultraviolet light from welding converts oxygen in the air around you to ozone, which initiates the lungs.
- There are also toxic substances in fluxes, filler rods, coatings and cleaning agents. Other poisonous fumes are produced by welding or cutting metal coated with paint, resin or varnish.

4. BURNS

- Always cool down hot metal or mark it with chalk if there is a chance someone could accidentally touch it.

5. FIRE PREVENTION

- Keep a fire extinguisher handy, particularly when working on containers with a coating of flammable material such as paint;
- Keep the work area free of flammable liquids and wastes or piles of rubbish in which sparks could smoulder.

Source: Hot Work on Drums & Tanks – OSH (Occupational Safety & Health Service)