



# Safety Tips for “Hot Work”



WHEN YOU WELD, CUT OR GRIND, THE POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS IS SIGNIFICANT.

## Potentially:

- Eyes and skin can be burned, hearing can be damaged, fires and explosion can occur and an electric shock can kill you
- Among the hot metal, sparks and flying chips, are compressed gases stored in high-pressure cylinders
- Even the fumes and gases produced during the welding process can damage your respiratory system or cause asphyxiation

*If you don't know  
where you are  
going, any road  
will get you there.*

## Unknown

**It's crucial to be cautious. Wear your personal protective equipment (PPE), maintain a safe workplace and follow all aspects of proper and appropriate welding and cutting procedure.**

Your PPE must include:

- Eye protection to shield against sparks, molten metal and welder's flash
- Hearing protection, where applicable
- Clothing made of heat-resistant materials, such as an apron made of leather
- Safety boots
- Gloves made of leather or other flameproof fabric
- Respiratory protection to protect against toxic chemicals and gases. (Before you use a respirator, get proper training and have it properly fitted)





# Safety Tips for “Hot Work”

**Wearing the right PPE is just the first step. You must also keep your work area safe and follow these safety rules:**



- Carry out hot work in well-ventilated areas
- Work in confined spaces only if they've been atmosphere-tested and follow all other confined space procedures
- Do not weld, cut or grind near flammable or combustible materials, liquids, vapors and dusts
- Have the appropriate fire extinguisher and other appropriate fire safety equipment close by
- Use only approved equipment in good condition and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Inspect equipment for loose connections, bare wires or cables before operating, and make sure the machinery is properly grounded
- Handle compressed gas cylinders safely, following proper use and storage procedures
- Keep aisles and stairways clear of cables and equipment
- Keep other people a safe distance from welding and cutting operations
- Learn first aid techniques for burns, poison inhalation, shock and eye injuries
- Know where the safety showers and eyewash stations are and how to use them

You must also watch for symptoms of metal fume fever, caused by breathing fumes formed while welding. Symptoms may include a metallic taste in the mouth, dry nose and throat, weakness, fatigue, joint and muscle pain, fever, chills and nausea. Notify your supervisor immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.

