

02.06.2023

HOT WORK OPERATIONS

IT'S HEATING UP NOW.

Hot work activities include burning, welding, cutting, grinding, or other operations that produce a flame or sparks.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Any welding, flame cutting, brazing, grinding, work that produces sparks, as well as the use of portable heaters, fuel, or gas, may require a hot work permit. There may be other types of work depending on specific locations that may also require a permit. The hot work permit is valid only for the date and shift that is indicated on the permit. When practical, the material involved in hot work should be moved to a safe location. When a hot work permit is required, please ensure that precautionary measures are taken.

- Gratings and openings will be completely covered to prevent sparks and slag from falling to a level below.
- Fire extinguishers are located in the immediate area of work.
- No flammable or combustible material is stored within 35 feet in any direction, if materials cannot be moved, positive means such as the use of non-combustible shields or fire blankets will be used to confine heat and sparks to prevent them from contacting the combustible material.
- No welding, cutting, or heating will be done where the application of flammable liquids or heavy dust concentrations may create a hazard.
- Fire watch personnel will be identified, trained, and equipped with an extinguisher rated at 20A, 60B:C, or greater and will be immediately available in the work area (within 25 feet of all hot work), and remain for a minimum of one hour after hot work has ended to detect and extinguish possible smoldering fires. They will have no other tasks while assigned as fire watch.
- If applicable, any confined space entry procedures will be followed.

HOT WORK PERMIT PROCESS

If a hot work permit is required, you can find this form in the Company Safety Management System. The person performing the work will have their supervisor sign off on the permit. Each permit will need to have a start time and end time and be dated and signed. A fire watch should be required for 30 minutes past the end of the hot work to ensure no fire or hot embers are left on the jobsite.

Combustible gas indicators will be calibrated and bump tested prior to performing tests. If the meter is to be used multiple times during the shift, it only needs to be bump tested at the beginning of the shift.

FIRE WATCH PROCEDURE

Fire watch personnel will be trained to understand the nature of hot work, and be provided proper PPE to complete their tasks safely. Fire watch will assist in a survey of the area to ensure the necessary fire protection equipment is in place and ready for use. Fire watch personnel will remain in constant communication with personnel doing hot work. The fire watch is authorized to stop work whenever they feel the conditions are unsafe, or if the work description on the permit is being exceeded. When bulkheads or walls are involved in hot work, both sides require a fire watch, caution must be used so that heat transfer does not create a hazard.