

HOT WORK

HOT WORK PROGRAMS ARE PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL OR ELIMINATE HOT WORK HAZARDS AND RISKS. HOT WORK INCLUDES ACTIVITIES SUCH AS WELDING, SOLDERING, CUTTING, GRINDING, HEAT TREATING, AND ANY OTHER ACTIVITY THAT CREATES SPARKS OR FLAMES. DEVASTATING FIRES CAN OCCUR WHEN HOT WORK PERMITS ARE NOT COMPLETED CORRECTLY AND COMBUSTIBLES ARE NOT CONTROLLED. PRIOR TO COMMENCING ANY HOT WORK WORKER COMPLETE THESE ITEMS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRES.

1) DETERMINE IF HOT WORK IS APPROPRIATE OR NEEDED

2) READ AND UNDERSTAND THE COMPANY HOT WORK PROGRAM

3) INSPECT THE HOT WORK AREA

4) HAVE A SPARK WATCH IN PLACE



BC Forest Safety

Safety is good business

HOT WORK



DETERMINE IF HOT WORK IS APPROPRIATE OR NEEDED

It is important before conducting any hot work to assess the activities and determine if hot work is appropriate or needed. Can the task be changed so that hot work is not needed? For example, instead of welding, could the piece be bolted together to temporarily delay hot work? Another option is, could the task be completed away from the production area in a fire-safe shop?

READ AND UNDERSTAND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

It is important to review and understand the hot work permit process. This will ensure that you are completing the hot work activities correctly and safely. Complete a hot work permit before performing hot work. Only perform the hot work if the permit has been approved by your supervisor or designate and they have inspected the area for combustibles.

INSPECT THE HOT WORK AREA

Prior to commencing any hot work, your work area has to be cleared of all combustible materials. It is important to inspect the entire area such as partitions, walls, ceilings and floor levels below and above. When inspecting, think of how small a spark is and how far it can launch from the area. If combustibles cannot be moved, keep the area wet with water and cover them with fire resistant blankets. Be sure to block off cracks between walls and floorboards as well as under door openings with a fire-resistant material to prevent sparks from entering other areas.

HAVE A SPARK WATCH IN PLACE

Don't assume you'll be able to watch out for fires as you perform your hot work. Before starting the job, consider having a spark watch in place to keep an eye open for far-flying sparks and the start of any potential smoulders or fires. Consider the spark watch as the eyes in the back of your head. And be sure to have the correct fire fighting supplies near the work area, prepped and ready to go before the hot work begins.