



NATURE OF THE HAZARD

Sparks and spatter fly off from the welding arc. Hot metal and sparks blow out from the cutting flame. The workpiece and equipment get hot. The flying sparks and hot metal, slag, spatter, hot workpiece, and hot equipment can cause burns.

Additionally, arc rays can cause radiation burns (see Fact Sheet No. 2).

HOW TO PREVENT BURNS

- Use approved helmets or hand shields that provide protection for the face, neck, and ears, and wear a head covering.
- Wear approved safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields, even under your helmet.
- Wear dry, hole-free insulating gloves.
- Wear flame-resistant ear plugs or ear muffs to keep sparks out of ears when welding or cutting overhead or in confined spaces.
- Wear oil-free flame-resistant, non-melting protective garments such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless pants, high shoes, and a cap.
- Wear leather leggings and flame-resistant boots, as needed.
- In cold climates heavy clothing may prevent awareness of clothing fires.
- Use dry, hole-free aprons, cape-sleeves, leggings, shoulder covers, and bibs approved for welding and cutting service.
- Remove any combustibles, such as a butane lighter or matches, from your person before doing any welding or cutting.
- Touching hot equipment such as electrode holders, gun tips, and nozzles can cause burns. Always wear dry, insulating gloves. Allow a cooling period before touching these and other parts of equipment that are near the actual welding or cutting operation.
- Do not wear pants with cuffs, shirts with open pockets, or any clothing that can trap molten metal or sparks.
- Keep clothing free of grease, oil, solvents, or any flammable substances.
- If combustible substances spill on protective clothing, change to clean clothing before doing any welding or cutting.
- Use sheet metal screens for extra protection when unusually heavy welding or cutting is involved.

- For highly hazardous processes or jobs, consider automation.
- Do not attempt to repair or disconnect electrical equipment under load. Disconnecting under load produces arcing of the contacts and may cause burns or shocks.

HOW TO PROTECT OTHERS FROM BURNS

- Use noncombustible screens or barriers to protect nearby persons or observers.
- Mark hot work pieces to alert others of the burn and fire hazards.
- If the job requires several persons, have all wear proper protective gear and follow all required procedures.

INFORMATION SOURCES

American National Standards Institute (ANSI). *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes* (ANSI Z49.1), published by the American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street, #130, Miami, FL 33166; telephone 800-443-9353; Web site: www.aws.org.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 29 Labor, Parts 1910.1 to 1910.1450, available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, 732 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC 20401; telephone: 800-321-6742; web site: www.osha.gov.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI). *Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection* (ANSI Z87.1), available from ANSI, 25 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036; telephone: 212-642-4900; web site: www.ansi.org.

ASTM International Standards, F2412, *Test Methods for Foot Protection*, and F2413, *Specification for Performance Requirements for Protective Footwear*, available from ASTM International, 100 Bar Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2559; telephone: 610-832-9585; web site: www.astm.org.

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). *Code of Federal Regulations* Title 30 Mineral Resources, Parts 1 to 199, available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, 732 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC 20401; telephone: 202-693-9400; web site: www.msha.gov.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). *Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work* (NFPA 51B), available from National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, telephone: 800-344-3555, web site: www.nfpa.org.

American Welding Society (AWS). *Safety and Health Fact Sheets*, published by the American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street, #130, Miami, FL 33166; telephone 800-443-9353; Web site: www.aws.org.