



Tripping and Falling

NATURE OF THE HAZARD

Welding, cutting and allied processes take place in a wide variety of locations under many different conditions. Welding and cutting occurs in shops and factories on the floor level, on high steel in skyscraper construction, in pits, vats, mines, tanks, ship compartments, and everywhere metals are joined or cut.

SOME CAUSES OF TRIPS AND FALLS

- Poor housekeeping of materials, equipment, hoses, and tools.
- Scattered parts and pieces either left over or waiting for use.
- Failure to use or correctly use a fall protection system.
- Sudden loud noises or shouts.
- Inadequate or improperly used safety equipment such as ladders, guardrails, scaffolds, and nets.
- Failure to use proper personal protective equipment such as skid-resistant soles on shoes or fall arrest equipment to meet job needs.

- Horseplay or unsafe actions, such as tossing tools to each other or bumping someone in a precarious position.
- Electric shock from faulty equipment.
- Restricted vision caused by needed safety gear such as welding helmets and safety goggles.
- Failure to fully understand the hazards, such as toxic fumes, when entering a pit, tank, or compartment.

HOW TO PREVENT TRIPPING AND FALLING

- Be alert, aware, and focused on the job and the work area; notice any changing conditions.
- Wear and use only the correct, approved equipment for the specific job; be sure it is properly installed and used.
- Do not carry things that obstruct your view or that upset your balance.
- Prohibit horseplay on the job.
- Follow all standard safe practices required by your employer.
- Keep the work area clean and neat – ask your supervisor for help if needed.

- Do not take chances or unnecessary risks – such actions cause accidents.
- Use personal fall protection systems when required and insure proper training.

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*, 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.

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.

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.