



WELDING & CUTTING

WELD WISE, CUT SAFE: A GUIDE TO WORKSITE SAFETY

TOP 5 HAZARDS

1. **Flash Burns:** Eyes and skin can be burned by the ultraviolet light from the torch flame.
2. **Fire and Explosion Risks:** Sparks can ignite flammable materials or gases in the area.
3. **Fume Inhalation:** Hazardous fumes released from burning materials or protective coatings can be toxic.
4. **Electric Shock:** Using welding equipment can result in electric shocks if not handled properly.
5. **Noise and Vibration:** High noise levels from cutting and welding equipment can cause hearing loss.

KEY COMPONENTS OF A HOT WORK PERMIT

- **Scope of Work:** Specifies the welding or cutting tasks, detailing the equipment and techniques to be used.
- **Risk Assessment:** Identifies potential fire hazards in the immediate environment and the broader site area, which is especially important in outdoor and variable site conditions typical in pile driving.
- **Safety Measures:** Details fire prevention and protection measures, including the use of fire-resistant barriers, the readiness of fire extinguishing equipment and the assignment of fire watch personnel.

SAFETY TIPS

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Wear all required PPE including welding masks, gloves and fire-resistant clothing.
- **Pre-Work Inspection:** Check all equipment for damage before use. Ensure no flammable materials are in the welding area.
- **Proper Ventilation:** Ensure the work area is well-ventilated to avoid the accumulation of toxic fumes.
- **Fire Safety:** Have a fire extinguisher readily available and be familiar with its operation.
- **Electrical Safety:** Use ground fault circuit interrupters and insulated tools to prevent electrical shocks.



Q&A

What should you do before you start welding?

Inspect the equipment, prepare PPE and ensure the area is safe and well-ventilated.

What type of fire extinguisher is best for welding areas?

Use a CO₂ or dry chemical fire extinguisher suitable for electrical fires and flammable materials.

Why is ventilation important in welding?

To prevent the accumulation of toxic gases and fumes from the welding process.

How should you handle welding near combustible materials during pile driving operations?

Remove all flammable materials from the welding area. If removal isn't possible, cover them with fire-resistant blankets. Always have a fire watch present who stays for at least 30 minutes after welding to monitor for and extinguish any smoldering fires.



Toolbox Talk Attendance

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number In crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by crew members:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
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14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____