

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 22

No. 10

Week of 03/8/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

WELDING

Welding and cutting are inherently dangerous operations; but they can be performed safely when the proper precautions are taken and procedures are followed. Today, we'll discuss some of the hazards associated with gas welding and electric arc welding. In most cases, these same hazards exist during cutting operations.

First, let's consider gas welding. The two most commonly used welding gases are oxygen and acetylene. These gases are stored in compressed gas cylinders and delivered to the torch through a series of valves, regulators, couplings, and hoses. The cylinders can be very dangerous by themselves; always secure them so they cannot tip over. It is very important to prevent leaks in the hoses, couplings, valves, etc. Even a small oxygen leak could super-saturate the area or your clothes with oxygen. One spark and poof — you go up in smoke. Take the extra time to ensure that all of the equipment is in good working order and is properly assembled.

Arc welding uses a strong electric current to generate the heat necessary to melt and fuse the materials. When the current is applied, a very bright arc or spark is produced. The radiation emitted by the arc can cause severe damage to the eye. It is therefore, important to protect your eyes from the arc. If you are welding, make sure that the filter in your hood is dark enough; welding heavier pieces generally requires the use of darker filters.

The threat of fire is always present during welding and cutting operations. Before you begin, inspect the area and remove or guard any flammable or combustible materials. Be particularly careful when welding near greasy or oily equipment. You should always keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Some companies require another employee to oversee the operation and watch for fires.

Welding often produces irritating and sometimes toxic fumes; a respirator may be needed to protect you from these fumes. Some of the most dangerous fumes are produced when welding or cutting metals containing cadmium, zinc, and lead. Always wear the necessary PPE. Ask your supervisor if you have any questions about what PPE is needed.

Many of the hazards we've discussed endanger anyone who is working near the welder. Even if you don't weld, it is very important that you recognize these hazards and take steps to protect yourself from injury.

**Matches or burning paper should not be used
for lighting a welding torch —
use a spark lighter instead.**

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____