

Everyone Goes Home “SAFE”!

SAFE HOT WORK PRACTICES



The U.S. Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board has identified more than 60 fatalities since 1990 due to explosions and fires from hot work activities on tanks. Hot work is defined as “work involving burning, grinding, welding, gouging or a similar operation that is capable of initiating fires or explosions.”

The best opportunity for accident prevention is in the planning stage. To plan well we must complete the following actions and take an active role in the field before the permit is issued.

- **Understand** the nature and extent of work to be done
- **Perform** atmospheric testing of the area as appropriate where work will be performed; the boundaries of the area to be tested depend on the nature of work to be done
- **Ensure** that results of any atmospheric tests taken are included on the permit, including, type of instrument, identification number and calibration due date
- **Communicate** to the persons who will perform the work, personal protective equipment required and fire watch precautions that need to be taken to perform work safely
- **Ensure** that the equipment or area to be worked is appropriately prepared, i.e. sewers covered, equipment drained, lines unplugged and cleaned, Flammable and combustible material removed, etc.
- **Ensure** that a fire watch (FW) extinguisher and/or fire monitor or charged water hose is available at the scene of the work
- **Ensure** that all personnel who may be impacted by the work are aware that work is commencing
- **Ensure** ground cables are attached as close to the job as possible. Welding machines shall not be left unattended while running and must be shut down before refueling. Welding leads shall be inspected prior to use. (*Arc Welding/Gouging only*)

Ensuring fire safety in the performance of hot-work operations during demolition, construction, renovation, or maintenance activities is a critical component of fire prevention. Proper management and control of hot-work operations can be achieved by following our site's hot-work procedures.