



TOOLBOX TALK #30

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 30

Welding, Cutting and Burning

The purpose of welding, and other forms of cutting, is to melt metal. We do this so that we can work with it, but the process of heating metal to the point that it resumes a liquid form should remind us there are serious hazards in doing so. We must protect ourselves to make this part of our job safe.

First remember that if our tools can melt metal, they can certainly start fires. Make sure your work area is clear of flammable or combustible materials. If possible, move the item you are welding to an isolated area free of these hazards. Check for equipment and co-workers in your work area that might be harmed by sparks or slag. Always keep a fire extinguisher, hose or other fire suppression device nearby just in case. A fire watch may be required in some instances, and is desirable in all cases when possible, even if it is not required. Remember to be on the watch for smoldering debris.

The second thing to remember is your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Gas and electric arc welding require safety goggles or glasses with side shields and appropriate filter lenses. If you use a welding hood, wear safety glasses beneath it. Also remember that welding and cutting cause dangerous fumes. Be sure to do your work in a well-ventilated area. Wear proper clothing including welding gloves, long sleeved shirts and long pants, and work boots. When welding outdoors, try to do so with the wind at your back to reduce your exposure to fumes. Always use flash shields to protect others.

Depending on the job, there may be safety requirements such as the use of fire blankets or other protective devices. Always ask about special requirements related to welding and cutting before beginning your work. Welding and cutting metal is a part of what we do, but it can be dangerous. As with other things we talk about, it's up to us to make this task safe.

Facilitator Notes: There are probably selected individuals among your crew members responsible for welding and cutting metal. Ask them to discuss these tasks and involve them in the discussion. Have them help in sharing information that would inform the other members of the crew in how they can protect themselves and participate in the safe operation of these jobs.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet