

# Welding Work Area Safety

- Wear safety glasses in the work area and when welding to protect the eyes from slag and other debris that might be deflected under the helmet.
- Wear goggles with special filter plates, protective glasses, or face shields to protect against injury and exposure to ultraviolet and infrared rays.
- Wear protective clothing made of fire-resistant material.
- Wear a long-sleeved welding jacket or apron when welding.
- Wear hightop work boots made of leather or other approved material with steel toes to prevent impact injuries.
- Wear pant legs, without cuffs, over the boots.
- Cinch loose fitting clothes and long hair.
- Wear welding gloves to prevent hands from being burned by hot metal, weld spatter, and arc radiation.
- Wear earplugs or earmuffs to reduce the noise reaching the eardrum.
- Wear a respirator when welding or cutting zinc, brass, bronze, lead, cadmium, beryllium, galvanized steel, or metal painted with lead-based paint.
- Use a properly positioned ventilation system.
- Notify others when preparing to strike a torch or electrode.
- Properly maintain equipment to manufacturer specifications and never override safety features.
- Do not operate equipment if untrained in its proper use.
- Perform welding only in well-ventilated areas. Areas under 10,000 cu ft for each welder, or that have ceilings lower than 16 ft, require forced ventilation.
- Place ventilation as close to the fume source as practical.
- The fumes from metals, such as zinc, cadmium, lead, chromium, and beryllium, are hazardous. Use a welding helmet equipped with a respirator and make sure the area is well ventilated when welding materials that produce toxic fumes. Toxic fumes can also be produced by surface coating or contaminants on the metal and the consumable and shielding gas used.
- Never perform welding where sparks will be a hazard or near flammable materials.
- Keep flame and sparks away from oxygen cylinders and hoses.
- Locate the nearest fire extinguisher before performing any welding or cutting operation. Verify the fire extinguisher type and operating condition.
- Exercise extra caution when welding in a confined space (e.g., tanks, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, pits, and trenches) and have a stand-by person available, guarding openings, having proper ventilation, and performing oxygen-content checks.
- Eliminate all distractions to avoid an accident, injuries, and/or damage to property and equipment.
- Never weld or cut drums, barrels, or tanks that have not been properly cleaned and prepared.
- Never weld against concrete.
- Report all accidents, regardless of how minor they are.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_