

# Hot Works, Fire and Explosive Hazards

Hot work is any work that involves burning, welding, using fire- or spark-producing tools, or that produces a source of ignition. Welding and cutting operations are common to the Marina, as well as many other class operations.

Workers performing hot work are exposed to the risk of fires from ignition of flammable or combustible materials in the space, and from leaks of flammable gas into the space, from hot work equipment.

## **POTENTIAL HAZARD:** Getting burned by fires or explosions during hot work.

### **Possible Solutions:**

The basic precautions for fire prevention are:

1. Perform hot work in a safe location, or with fire hazards removed or covered.
2. Use guards to confine the heat, sparks, and slag, and to protect the immovable fire hazards.

### **Special Precautions:**

- Do not perform hot work where flammable vapors or combustible materials exist. Work and equipment should be relocated outside of the hazardous areas, when possible.
- Make suitable fire-extinguishing equipment immediately available in a state of readiness. Such equipment may consist of pails of water, buckets of sand, hose, or portable extinguishers dependent upon the nature and quantity of the combustible material exposed.
- Assign additional personnel (fire watch) to guard against fire while hot work is being performed. Fire watchers are required whenever welding or cutting is performed in locations where anything greater than a minor fire might develop.

Fire watchers shall:

- Have fire-extinguishing equipment readily available and be trained in its use.
- Be familiar with facilities for sounding an alarm in the event of a fire.
- Watch for fires in all exposed areas, try to extinguish them only when obviously within the capacity of the equipment available, or otherwise sound the alarm.
- Maintain the fire watch at least a half hour after completion of welding or cutting operations to detect and extinguish possible smoldering fires.

## **POTENTIAL HAZARD:** Getting burned by a flash fire or explosion that results from an accumulation of flammable gases, such as Methane or Hydrogen Sulfide, around the wellhead area.

### **Possible Solution:**

1. Monitor the atmosphere with a gas detector. If a flammable or combustible gas exceeds 10 percent of the lower explosive level (LEL), the work must be stopped. Identify the source of the gas and repair the leakage.

For additional safety and health information, please refer to [OSHA Regulations and Standards](#).

*The Stop The Loss™ Marina Program is provided in conjunction with:*

