

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

© Safety Meeting Outlines Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 31 Vol. 20 Week of Aug 27

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

WELDING & CUTTING

One of the worst things that can happen when welding or cutting is a fire. Welders have a responsibility to take all necessary safety precautions to ensure that their welding operation does not cause a fire. It is important to remember that practically anything can burn if it gets hot enough. Welding generates sparks, hot slag, and of course, the flame from the torch. Hot slag can fall on materials nearby or ignite combustibles on floors above or below the welding operation.

Inspect cutting and welding equipment and check your work area before you begin the job. Wood, paper, and other combustibles must be removed. Cover any floor grates, and always, keep your welding operation away from flammable liquids. Control sparks and know where your slag is falling. If you're welding on a roof, make sure you have a clear path to travel in the event you have to get off the roof in a hurry. A fire watch may be needed in the area in which the welding is taking place, on the floor below, and in some cases even one floor above — remember, sparks can be carried by the wind. If you are on fire watch duty, be sure you have a fully charged fire extinguisher ready to use, and that you know what emergency procedures to follow in case things get out of hand. Every week a building, factory, or apartment fire is caused by welders. These fires can be prevented if all welders use their heads, plan their work, and follow basic safety practices.

Here are a few additional safety tips to help you complete your welding or cutting job without incident. Proper eye protection is an absolute must. Always examine hoses for defects before attaching them to torch handles or regulators. **Caution** — oil and grease in the presence of oxygen become highly flammable or even explosive. Oxygen and fuel gas hoses cannot be interchanged; and they must be distinguishable either by color or by a surface characteristic you can feel. Always open cylinder valves slowly and carefully, close valves completely on empty cylinders, and keep valve protection caps in place whenever cylinders are not in use. Never tamper with the relief valve or remove it from a regulator. Regulators should only be cleaned or repaired by a qualified technician.

Safety — first — last — always!

**Never weld in a confined space without a permit,
your supervisor's permission, and
assurance that there is adequate ventilation.**

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed M.S.D.S. # _____ Subject: _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____