

Hot Work

Introduction

This publication is to alert clients about several substantial fire losses caused by improperly monitored hot work operations. Two of these are of particular note:

- A plumber was soldering connections to a bathroom vanity in a wood frame condo. Shortly after the job shut down for the night a fire broke out. *RESULT: \$250,000 in physical damages.*
- A welder working at a large international airport was tacking on a ceiling bracket when a nearby pile of debris caught on fire. The resulting smoke forced the airport to order all planes backed away from the terminal and the closure of the runways, leaving dozens of planes stranded in a holding pattern for over 30 minutes. *RESULT: Although little physical damage was done, the soft costs for business interruption easily exceed the prior example.*

How will this affect the general reputation of these contractors, their customers, and their insurance premiums?

Hot Work Procedure

In neither case were appropriate hot work practices observed since either Hot Work Permits are not pulled or are improperly implemented. This could also occur on your project if there are inadequate safeguards for hot work applications. We advise the following:

- Hold a safety meeting with all hot work subs to explain the purpose and requirements of the required hot work permit system (see sample outline).
- Require those performing hot work to report planned hot work.
- Designate a Permit Authorizing Individual (PAI). The PAI will be responsible for issuing permits and for inspection prior to, during, and following completion of hot work.
- Protect combustibles in the immediate area and provide for fire-extinguishing equipment during hot work.
- Maintain a fire watch immediately following all hot work for a period of at least 30 minutes.

Hot work fires can be prevented or damage minimized, in the event of accidental ignition. It is possible, if management and employees use a Hot Work Permit System.

NFPA 51B	Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hotwork (1999 edition)
NFPA 241	Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration and Demolition Operations.
ANSI Z49.1	Safety in Welding and Cutting
OSHA CFR 1926	Subpart J (.350 - .354) and 1910 Subpart Q (.350-.354) - Welding/Cutting Sections

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY The information contained in this publication is not intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. It is not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide a safe premises, workplace, product or operation.

The risk prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and best practice strategies based on generally accepted practices for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. The recommendations and information contained herein are not, intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. This guide is not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to imply that Alteris will write such coverage. The liability of Alteris is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.