

Keep your cool around hot work

Welding and cutting safety

Welding and cutting come with serious risks, but a little preparation goes a long way.

From fires to toxic fumes and burns, these tasks demand training and care. Keep yourself and others safe by following these practical tips, starting with a hazard analysis and a hot work permit as part of your safety routine.

Fire safety

- Clear all combustible materials within 35 feet of your work area
- Cover flammable items with fire-resistant covers or metal guards if they can't be moved
- Wet down combustible floors to reduce fire risk
- Shield open doorways and windows with fireproof curtains or screens
- Test welding tanks or drums that previously held flammable substances for dangerous fumes
- Keep a fire extinguisher within reach

Fume Safety

- Remove paints, solvents, and other chemicals before starting
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job
- Use the correct welding rod for your materials
- Ensure proper ventilation, especially in enclosed spaces and use local exhaust systems to clear fumes and gases
- Always choose the safest welding method for the job



Burn safety

- Remove combustibles and ignitable liquids before starting
- Wear PPE designed to protect against burns
- Treat all metals in the work area as if they're hot
- Place screens around your work area to shield others from harmful weld flashes

Preparation and awareness are your best tools for safe welding and cutting. Stay sharp, stay safe, and get the job done right.