HOT WORK OPERATIONS

General
Welding and Hot Work, such as brazing or grinding present a significant opportunity for fire and injury. All precautions described in this program must be applied prior to commencing any welding or hot works by college employees and/or contractors. Welding, cutting and use of torches shall comply with this section, NFPA 51B and OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252.


Fire Prevention Precautions

Hot work shall be allowed only in areas that are or have been made fire safe. Hot work shall be performed in either designated areas or permit-required areas. A designated area shall be a specific area designed or approved for such work, such as maintenance shop or a detached outside location that is of noncombustible or fire resistive construction, essentially free of combustible and flammable contents and suitable segregated from adjacent areas. All designated areas for welding will be inspected yearly and must display a copy of the permit in the approved area at all times as well as warning signs to alert others of the activities and dangers associated in these areas.

A permit required area shall be an area that is made fire safe by removing or protecting combustibles from ignition sources. Hot work permits shall not be allowed in the following areas:

- Areas not authorized by Public Safety or Department Administration.
- In sprinkler buildings when the sprinkler system is not operational.
- In the presence of explosive atmospheres.

Hot Work Supervisor

A Hot Works Supervisor is needed to issue a hot works permit. The supervisor will inspect the area and receive a defined instruction on what the work will involve. Hot Works Supervisors must receive a Hot Works Training Program which is offered by Life Safety Services.

Hot Works Training Program

This program will be given periodically to all Hot Works Supervisors and is intended to be a refresher course and review of the hot works policies. The Life Safety Services will provide the instructor and scheduling for the program.
Hot Work Permit

Permits are required from a Hot Works Supervisor, before any work can be started. The following conditions must be met before a permit will be issued:

- Hot work equipment shall be in good working order.
- All combustible materials must be removed at least 35 feet in all directions from the area where the work is to be performed. Where relocation is impractical, combustibles shall be protected with flame proof covers, shielded with metal, guards, curtains, or wet down material to help prevent ignition of material.
- All openings in walls, floors, and ceilings work must be protected or shielded to prevent sparks from entering those areas.
- Ducts, conveyor systems and augers that might carry sparks to distant combustibles shall be protected or shut down.
- A fully charged 10 lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher is made available near the work area.
- All sprinkler heads are protected.
- All personnel performing the work is wearing personal protective equipment to protect against sparks, flames and heat.
- Fire Alarm System must be zoned out to prevent false alarm.
- One person designated to manually activate the fire alarm system in case of a fire.

Permit Termination

Cutting or welding permit shall not be permitted in the following situations:

- In areas not authorized by management.
- In sprinkled buildings while such protection is impaired.
- In the presence of potentially explosive atmospheres and flammables.
- In areas near the storage of large quantities of exposed, readily ignited materials.

Fire Watch

A fire watch is required during the work being performed as well as at least one half hour after the work is completed. The fire watch will constantly monitor the work being done and stop any work that is causing a hazard. The fire watch person shall have the fire extinguisher with them and be trained in its use. The fire watch will be familiar and required to sound the fire alarm and to notify the fire department by calling 911 or Public Safety Office at 6911.