



Town Hall Drywall, Inc.

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Hot Work Program

Town Hall Drywall

Protect your employees who perform hot work.

(T8CCR) section 4794-4799

DISCLAIMER:

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Hot Work Program

Town Hall Drywall

Purpose

Town Hall Drywall is dedicated to the protection of our employees from occupational injuries and illnesses. Town Hall Drywall is responsible for providing a safe working environment, and the employees have and must assume the responsibility for working safely.

The objective of this program is to supplement our safety policy by providing specific standards regarding Hot Work and to ensure that each employee is adequately trained and fully aware of safety procedures associated with Hot Work.

Welding and Hot Work, such as brazing or grinding presents a significant opportunity for fire and injury. Employees or contractors must apply all precautions of this program prior to commencing any welding or hot work. *References: Title 8 CCR Sections 1536, 4799, 4812- 16, 4838, 4845-48, and 5150 concurs with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252*

Elimination of injuries and illnesses improves employee morale, improves customer service, improves product quality, work quality, and helps to reduce or mitigate Worker's Compensation costs. This program serves as a tool to increase employee protection, and to reduce jobsite hazards.

Employees are required to comply with the guidelines set forth, and to comply with the instruction of the Supervisor. In the event an unsafe condition arises in the absence of the supervisor, employees should alert the lead persons on the jobsite and Town Hall Drywall immediately. Employees should also alert co-workers of any unsafe conditions that arise.

Definitions

Welding/Hot Works Procedures: any activity which results in sparks fire, molten slag, or hot material which has the potential to cause fires or explosions.

Examples of Hot Work: Cutting, Brazing, Soldering, Torch Applied Roofing, Grinding and Welding.

Special Hazard Occupancies: Any area containing Flammable Liquids, Dust Accumulation, Gases, Plastics, Rubber and Paper Products.

Hot Work Procedures

- Where practical all combustibles will be relocated at least 35 feet from the work site.
- Where relocation is impractical, combustibles must be protected with flameproof covers, shielded with metal, guards, curtains or wet down to help prevent ignition of material.
- Ducts, conveyor systems, and augers that might carry sparks to distant combustibles must be protected or shut down.
- Where cutting welding is done near walls, partitions, ceilings, a roof of combustible construction, fire-resistant shield or guards will be provided to prevent ignition
- If welding is to be done on a metal wall, partitions, ceiling, or roof, precautions must be taken to prevent ignition of combustibles on the other side, due to conduction or radiation of heat.
- Where combustibles cannot be relocated on the opposite side of work, a fire watch person will be provided on the opposite side of the work.
- Welding will not be attempted on a metal partition, wall, ceiling, or roof having a covering or on walls having combustible sandwich panel construction.

- Cutting or welding on pipes or other metal in contact with combustible walls, partitions, ceiling, or roofs will not be undertaken if the work is close enough to cause ignition by combustion.
- In areas where there is dust accumulation of greater than 1/16 inch within 35 feet of the area where welding/hot works will be conducted, all dust accumulation will be cleaned up following the housekeeping program of the facility before welding/hot works are permitted.
- Suitable fire extinguishers must be provided and maintained ready for instant use.
- A fire watch person will be provided during and for two hours past the completion of the welding project.
- A cutting/welding permit will be issued on all welding or cutting outside of designated welding areas.

Cutting or welding will not be permitted in the following situations:

- In areas not authorized by management
- In sprinklered building while such protection is impaired.
- In the presence of potentially explosive atmospheres.
- In areas near the storage of large quantities of exposed, readily ignitable materials.

Welding & Hot Work Fire Prevention Measures

A designated welding area should be established to meet the following requirements:

- Floors swept and clean combustibles within 35 feet of work area.
- Flammable and combustible liquids and material will be kept 35 feet from work area.
- Adequate ventilation providing 20 air changes per hour, such as suction hood system should be provided to the work area.
- At least one 10-lb dry chemical fire extinguisher should be within access of the 35 feet of work area.

Requirements for Welding Outside Designated Areas

- A hot works permit must be completed and complied with prior to welding operation.
- Respiratory protection is mandatory unless an adequate monitored airflow away from the welder and others present can be established and maintained.
- Plastic materials must be covered with welding tarps during welding procedures
- Fire watch must be provided for all hot work operations.

Welding Procedures

The following lists welding procedures and are applicable for all electric and gas welding.

SOP- Electric Welding

- Perform safety check on all equipment
- Ensure fire extinguisher is charged and available
- Ensure electrical cord, electrode holder and cables are free from defects (no cable splices are allowed within 10 feet of the electrode holder)
- Ensure PPE (welding hood, gloves, rubber boots/soled shoes, and aprons) are available and have no defects.
- Ensure the welding unit is properly grounded
- All defective equipment must be repaired or replaced before use
- Remove flammables and combustibles
- No welding is permitted on or near containers of flammable material, combustible material or unprotected flammable structures
- Place welding screen or suitable barricade around work area to provide a fire safety zone and prevent injuries to passersby (do not block emergency exits or restrict ventilation).
- Ensure adequate ventilation and lighting

- Execute Hot Work Permit procedures
- Set Voltage Regulator no higher than the following for:
 - Manual Alternating Current Welders- 80 volts
 - Automatic Alternating Current Welders – 100 volts
 - Manual or automatic Direct Current Welders – 100 volts
- Uncoil and spread out welding cable
- To avoid overheating, ensure proper contact of work leads and connections, remove any metal fragments from magnetic work clamps (to avoid electric shock do not warp welding cables around a body part and avoid welding in wet conditions)
- Fire watch for one hour after welding and until all welds have cooled
- Perform final watch and terminate permit.

SOP- Gas Welding

- Perform safety check on all equipment
- Ensure tanks have gas and fitting are tight
- Ensure fire extinguishers are charged and available
- Inspect hoses for defects
- Ensure PPE (welding hood, gloves, rubber boots/soled shoes and aprons) are available and have no defects
- All defective equipment must be repaired or replaced **before use!**
- Remove flammables and combustibles
- No welding is permitted on or near containers of flammable material, combustible material or unprotected flammable structures
- Place welding screen or suitable barricade around work area to provide a fire safety zone and prevent injuries to passersby (do not block emergency exits or restrict ventilation).
- Use an authorized Air Filtering Respirator, if required
- Ensure adequate ventilation and lighting
- Execute Hot Work Permit Procedures
- Open valves on oxygen and gas tanks to desired flow
- Shut tank valves and relieve hose pressure. Store Hoses.
- Fire watch for one hour after welding and until all welds have cooled
- Perform final fire watch and terminate permit

Compressed Gas

Care, Transporting, Moving and Storage

- Valve caps on cylinders must be in place and secured. Valve caps must not be used for lifting. Do not pry cylinder caps while frozen. Loosen caps with warm water.
- Cylinders must be transported on a secured cradle only, and by tilting or rolling them.
- Cylinders must be moved by tilting and rolling them on their bottom edges. Avoid dropping cylinders or striking other cylinders.
- Cylinders transported by powered vehicles must be secured in a vertical position
- Regulators must be removed, and caps put in place prior to moving cylinders, unless cylinders are secured on a special carrier
- Proper steadying devices must be used to keep cylinders from falling over while in use
- Cylinder valves must be closed when cylinders are empty or when cylinders are moved
- Oxygen cylinders must be stored separated from fuel gas cylinders or combustible materials a minimum distance of 20 feet or by a five-foot-high noncombustible barrier with a fire-resistance rating of one-half hour.
- Cylinders stored inside building must be stored 20 feet from combustible materials where they were well protected, well ventilated, and dry. Cylinders must not be stored near elevators, stairs or gangways. Assigned storage locations must prevent cylinders from being knocked over or damaged.

- Cylinders must be kept away from welding or cutting operations to prevent sparks, hot slag, or flame from reaching them. Fire resistant shields must be used when this impractical.
- Cylinders must be placed away from electrical circuits. Do not strike electrodes against a cylinder to strike an arc.
- Cylinders containing oxygen, acetylene or other fuel gas must not be used in confined spaces.
- Cylinders must not be used as rollers or supports
- Only the gas supplier is authorized to mix gases in a cylinder. Only the Supervisor is authorized to have cylinders refilled.
- No damaged or defective cylinder may be used.

Use of Fuel Gas

- Town Hall Drywall employees will be instructed in the safe use of fuel gas.
- Valves must be opened slightly and closed immediately before a regulator is connected to the cylinder. This is called “cracking” which clears the valve of dust and dirt. The employee must stand to the side of the outlet, not in front. Valves must be cracked away from welding work, sparks, flames or other sources of ignition.
- Valves must be opened slowly to prevent damage to the regulator. Valves must not be opened more than 1 1/2 turns. If wrench is required it must stay in position in case of emergency for a quick shut off. Manifold or coupled cylinders must have a wrench available for immediate use. Do not place objects on top of cylinders, or damage may occur to the safety device or interfere with the quick closing of the valve.
- Cylinders must be closed, and the gas released from the regulator before removing the regulator. If cylinders, valves, regulators, plug, or other safety devices are damaged, they must be tagged out of service and removed from the work area.

Manifolds

- Fuel gas and oxygen manifolds must bear the name of the substance they contain.
- Fuel gas and oxygen manifolds must be placed in safe, well ventilated and accessible locations.
- Hose connections must be made so that they cannot be interchanged between fuel gas and oxygen manifolds and supply header connections. Keep hose connections free of grease and oil, and do not use adapters to interchange hoses
- Manifold and header hose connections must be capped when not in use.
- Nothing may be placed on manifolds that will damage the manifold or interfere with the quick closing of the valves

Hoses

- Fuel gas hose and oxygen hose must be distinguishable from each other, and not be interchangeable. Contrast may be made by different colors or by surface characteristics distinguishable by the sense of touch
- Employees will inspect all hoses in use at the beginning of each work shift. Defective hoses will be tagged and removed from service
- Hoses subjected to flashback, or which show severe wear or damage must be tested at twice that normal pressure from the hose, but not less than 300 psi. if defective, hose must not be used.
- Hose couplings must be disconnected by rotary motion only.
- Hoses stored in boxes must be well ventilated.
- Hoses, cables, and other equipment must be kept clear of passageways, ladders and stairs

Torches

- Torches must be inspected at the beginning of each working shift for leaving shutoff valves, hose coupling, and tip connections. Defective torches may not be used.
- Clogged torch tip openings must be cleaned
- Torches may be lit by friction lighters or other approved devices only

Regulators and Gauges

- Pressure and regulators and related gauges, must work properly while in use

Oil and Grease Hazards

- Oxygen cylinders and fittings must be kept away from oil or grease. Cylinders and fittings must be kept free from oil or greasy substances and may not be handled with oily hands or gloves.
- Oxygen must not be directed at oily surfaces, greasy clothes, or within a fuel oil or other storage tank or vessel.

Fire Protection

- Objects to be welded, cut or heated must be moved to a designated safe location. If the object cannot be easily moved all moveable fire hazards will be moved protected.
- If the object to be welded, cut or heated cannot be moved and if all the fire sparks, and slag, and to protect the immovable fire hazards from them
- Welding, cutting, or heating must not be performed in the presence of flammable paints, flammable compounds, or heavy dust concentrations.
- Fire extinguishers must be immediately available in the work area, free of obstruction, and maintained for instant use.
- When normal fire prevention precautions are not sufficient for the welding, cutting, or heating operation supervisor will assign a fire watch. Sufficient amount of time must be allowed after completion of work to ensure that the possibility of fire does not exist. The designated fire watch must be trained in firefighting equipment.
- Gas supplies must be shut off during lunch breaks, overnight, or during shift breaks. Hoses and torches must be removed from confined spaces.

Training

Town Hall Drywall employees are required to become familiar with and understand the guidelines regarding welding and cutting operations. Designated welders and cutters must receive annual training and must demonstrate their understanding of these guidelines to the supervisor.

Training should include:

1. Review of requirements listed in TITLE 8 CCR Sections 4794-4799, and articles 82,83,87,88, & 90, also, OSHA 1910.252,
2. Use of Hot Work Permit System
3. Supervisor responsibilities
4. Fire watch responsibilities
5. Operator responsibilities
6. Contractors responsibilities
7. Documentation requirements
8. Respirator usage requirements
9. Fire Extinguisher training