

Toolbox

Safety Series



WELDING AND CUTTING

Today I want to cover the three "F's" of welding: Fire, Fumes, and Face.

First fire. Always check carefully for fire hazards before starting to weld. Wood, paper, or other flammable materials should be removed from the area. Don't weld near flammable liquids. Wooden floors should be clean before you weld, and covered with metal or a non-flammable material.

Be sure there are no cracks into which sparks or slag may fall. Never allow hot slag to fall into machine pits. Protect openings (doorways, windows, etc.) with non-combustible material.

When welding near combustible materials, a fire extinguisher, pail of water, fire hose, or a pail of sand should be kept close at hand. You may have to establish a fire watch with a trained individual who knows how to use the emergency equipment.

The second "F" of welding is fumes. Don't cut or weld any tank or drum that contained flammable liquids until it's tested for dangerous vapors. Insist on a test before you start your work.

Good ventilation is a must for all welding operations. Fumes can be harmful and good ventilation is necessary. Check the MSDS **before** you start. Welding screens should not block the air flow. Don't weld in small rooms, tanks, or enclosed spaces without following your confined space entry policy.

Finally, the Face area. Eye protection is a must on all welding jobs. Many jobs require full face protection. Face and eye protection is needed in many operations performed by welders besides the cutting and welding. Electric welders need goggles as well as the regular helmet. A good deal of chipping and cleaning of metal may throw particles of metal at eyes. Always use the type of protection required for the job.

Remember the three "F's" of welding: Fire, Fumes, and Face (including eyes). Look out for these three and you'll be able to weld safely.

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LEADER NOTES

Objective: To review the proper personal protection and methods of fire prevention for welding and cutting.

Potential Injuries: Burns and eye injuries (flash burns, etc.)

THE TALK - POINTS TO COVER

- Today I want to cover the three "F's" of welding: Fire, Fumes, and Face.
- First, "**Fire**". Always check carefully for fire hazards before starting to weld. Make sure that wood, paper, flammable materials, and flammable liquids are cleared from the welding area.
- Watch for slag and sparks when cutting or welding.
- When welding near combustible materials, a fire extinguisher, pail of water, fire hose, or a pail of sand should be at hand.
- Establish a fire watch with an assigned trained worker to put out sparks.
- Next F, "**Fumes**". Don't cut or weld any tank or drum that contained flammable liquids until it has been tested to ensure no dangerous vapors are present.
- Good ventilation is a must for all welding operations. Remember to check the MSDS **before** you begin.
- Third F, "**Face**". Eye protection is a must on all welding jobs with many jobs requiring full face protection.
- Eye protection is necessary to protect your eyes from sparks, slag, molten metal, and the flash burns caused by radiation from welding equipment.
- Remember the three "F's" of welding: Fire, Fumes, and Face (including eyes). Look out for these three and you'll be able to weld safely.

