

## Hot Work Fire Hazards

Hot work like cutting, welding, soldering, and grinding can present special fire hazards. Hot work presents special hazards requiring special controls needed to prevent fires.

Hot work creates fire hazards like flames, slag, or sparks. Hot work should only be done in permanent hot work areas or temporary areas where special precautions must be observed.

**Permanent Hot Work Area** | A permanent hot work areas are dedicated locations like shops, kept clear of flammable and combustible materials. They are also posted as approved hot work areas.

**Hot Work Permit Area** | Temporary hot work areas require a special inspection and written “hot work permit”. These locations can be indoors or out.

Regardless of the location, special precautions must be observed. Combustible materials within 35 feet of hot work must be removed from the area. If removing them is not possible, they must be covered with fire resistant covers or be guarded.

Pay special attention to any floor openings in the hot work area. Slag and sparks can fall into them and start a floor below. Be certain that fire extinguishing equipment is immediately available. This can include pails of water, buckets of sand, a hose, or portable extinguishers.

Whenever hot work is being performed, someone needs to act as a fire watch. They are to guard against fire while the work is being done. Those on fire watch must:

- Keep fire extinguishing equipment ready to use and be trained in how to use it.
- Know how to sound the alarm in case of fire.
- Keep an eye out for fire in exposed areas.
- Stay on watch for at least 30 minutes after hot work is done to watch for and extinguish fires.

Following these precautions is especially important when working outdoors or in a remote area. When complete clearing of vegetation is not be possible, be sure to use guards and the fire watch.

**OSHA SAFETY TRAINING CERTIFICATION FORM**  
**Toolbox Topic Covered: Hot Work Fire Hazards**

Print Name	Signature

Supervisor/Foreman Signature: \_\_\_\_\_