

WELDING AND CUTTING

Welding and cutting tasks are dangerous, especially when working on a construction site. As your surroundings are constantly changing, it is important to keep safety top of mind. Make safety a top priority as you weld and cut. Taking these precautions will lower your risk of occupational injuries, which will make your job much more safe and enjoyable.

Keep Safety in Mind

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Here are the top 5 things you need to know about welding and cutting.

1. Ventilation

Make sure your work area is properly ventilated. Many of these operations produce fumes that are harmful in heavy concentrations, and good ventilation is one of the best methods of protecting yourself against this. Utilize special ventilating equipment if necessary.

2. Move and store safely

While being moved cylinders should be vertical and secured by tilting and rolling them on their bottom edges.

Valve protection caps shall not be used for lifting cylinders from one vertical position to another.

3. Shock and leaks

Hot electrode holders shall not be dipped in water; to do so may expose the arc welder or cutter to electric shock.

Seal cracks so that sparks or slag cannot fall through them, and never allow these hot materials to fall into machine pits.

4. Prevent fires

Always check for fire hazards before you start welding. Wood, paper and other flammable materials should be removed from the area. Flammable liquids should be removed as well.

If you are welding or cutting a tank or drum containing flammable liquids or gas, do not start your operation until an approved test shows that there is no dangerous vapor present.

5. PPE

Wear face and eye protection such as goggles and a helmet to protect against hazards. Welders working with metal, chipping and cleaning should always have their helmets lowered to prevent throw particles of metal from coming into the eyes. Shield open doorways, broken windows, etc. with a welding curtain or shield made of a fire-resistant material.

Discussion

1. What is the biggest hazard when welding cutting?

2. Can anyone share an experience relating to this topic?

