

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

HOT WORK SAFETY

PURPOSE

This program is directed at establishing the criteria and operating procedure for CMCSS Employee activities involving Hot Work. This program is in compliance and accordance with OSHA 29 CFR [1910.252](#).

SCOPE

The program applies to all Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (CMCSS) employees performing hot work activities, to include welding and cutting torch activities.

DEFINITIONS

- **Affected Employee-** Employees working nearby or performing hot work activities.
- **Hot Work Activities-** Any spark or flame producing operation, such as, but not limited to welding and metal cutting with an open flame.
- **Hot Work Designated Areas-** Fixed welding/cutting production facilities, maintenance shops and other areas designated as safe for fire control to perform hot work. Fire safe areas include:
 - Sprinkler-equipped buildings where the protection has been confirmed to be in service.
 - Areas that are a minimum of 35' from significant quantities of ordinary combustible materials (paper, wood, plastics)
 - Areas where there are no explosive atmospheres present due to flammable or combustible materials.

GENERAL HOT WORK RULES

- Where feasible, explore other methods of performing work to minimize or eliminate hot work.
- If possible, move the work to a hot work designated area. A Hot Work permit must be provided by the employer when these operations must be performed inside a facility, but outside of designated hot work areas, with the exception of student booths, designed for hot work operations.
- Hot work operations should be permitted only in areas that are made fire safe, including:
 - Sprinkler-equipped buildings where the protection has been confirmed to be in service.
 - Areas that are a minimum of 35' from significant quantities of ordinary combustible materials (paper, wood, plastics)
 - Areas where there are no explosive atmospheres present due to flammable or combustible materials.
- Hot work performed on piping, tanks, vessels, containers, and confined spaces that contain or have previously contained a hazardous, flammable or combustible liquid requires special precautions regardless of the location in the department. Contact

the department supervisor prior to performing hot work activities associated with this potential hazard.

- Combustible materials must be moved, swept or washed away from the hot work a minimum of 35 feet.
- If combustibles cannot be removed 35 feet from the hot work, they must be properly protected.
- Locate welding lead splices away from combustible materials.
- An operable fire extinguisher must be available for standby use at the job site.
- The fire extinguishers that are mounted for building protection are not to be used for standby use.
- Fire watches are required when hot work is performed in locations where a fire might develop to prevent ignition.
- Fire watch shall be maintained for at least 30 minutes after completion of the hot work to detect and extinguish possible smoldering fires. This includes inspecting multiple levels above and below where the work is being performed whenever necessary.
- Additional fire watches may be necessary where hot work can ignite materials on opposite sides of equipment, walls, floors or concealed spaces.
- Determine the location of nearest building extinguisher.
- *NO SMOKING* must be observed at all times when performing hot work activities. (Refer to HUM-A028 Use of Tobacco Products on School System Premises)
- Workstations shall be kept clear of clutter and debris.

HOT WORK EQUIPMENT

Hot work equipment shall be visually inspected and in good condition prior to being used. The equipment shall be inspected for the following deficiencies:

- Damaged, dry rotted or cut hoses.
- Frayed, cracked or exposed welding leads.
- Damaged insulation.
- Unsecured fuel tanks. Loose, malfunctioning or improper fittings
- Dirty or flammable/combustible materials stored on cart.
- Cart not equipped with appropriate standby fire extinguisher.