

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today, we will talk about safety principles regarding hot work. We will strive to provide information that will increase your knowledge and help to make you a better and safer worker.



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HOT WORK

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Hot work is any work involving fire- or spark-producing tools or work that produces a source of ignition. Examples of hot work include welding, burning, cutting, brazing, soldering, and grinding.



While someone does not need to be specifically certified to perform hot work, they do need to have a thorough understanding of the operation underway and the hazards involved. The purpose of this training is to give you those tools in order to help you be successful and safe on the job.





If care is not taken, hot work can be dangerous to those performing it, as well as to anyone who is in the area. Consider the following incident.



Dan, who was employed by a sheet metal company, was working with a coworker on a shed. He was standing on the first or second step of a 6-foot A-frame ladder, while he was welding the outside of the shed.





At some point, hot slag or sparks fell from the project and landed between his welding apron and his shirt. His shirt ignited. His coworker assisted Dan in putting out the flames and then called emergency services. Dan was admitted to the hospital and treated for burns that required surgery.



Slag is molten waste matter separated from metal during hot work operations.



While Dan was lucky to survive, this is not always the outcome for hot work personnel. Statistics show that 1 in 250 construction workers will suffer fatal injuries from welding over a working lifetime. An average of 4,440 structure fires involving hot work occur every year. In Dan's case, and for many of these accidents, taking the proper precautions could have minimized — or even prevented — the dangerous situation.



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Our goal, therefore, is to help you understand what hot work entails and how to safely perform it. In this training, you will learn the proper steps to take before hot work is started, during operation, and after hot work is completed to minimize the risk of an accident.





STANDARDS

- 1910.252 – General Requirements
- OSHA 29 CFT 1910 Subpart Q (Welding, Cutting, and Brazing)
- 1910.352 Subpart J – Welding and Cutting

These are the main standards concerning hot work. Many states have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided these as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, local, and company rules that apply to your job site.



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Why Training?

No matter the situation, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask, “Where does it state we need to be trained? Can’t a worker also be deemed ‘qualified’ based on experience?” The answer is no. Experience helps, yes, but OSHA makes it very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they’ve been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing safety training in order to confirm that the employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed for operations.



Initial training and refresher training, as well as any written and practical evaluations, must be documented and filed. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the form of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, and so on). These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.

Workers are required to receive refresher training when...

- 1 There are changes in their assigned duties.
- 2 There are changes regarding potential exposure to hazards for which the employees have not received training.
- 3 There is any deficiency noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers.
- 4 If an accident occurs or if an employee is injured or nearly injured during operations at any time.

NOTE: In some areas, refresher training is required at least every three years (if not sooner).

Training is not just a one-and-done occurrence; it is ongoing. In fact, similar to the guidelines for when initial training is required, OSHA is also specific when it comes to "refresher training." More specifically, OSHA acknowledges the call for "refresher" or "follow up" training whenever there is a demonstrated need for it.



The extent of training will be determined by the employer. However, at the very least, it should include classroom instruction followed by a written and practical examination that prove continued competency. The more knowledge you have of proper safety measures, the better off you and your workplace will be.

Site Setup & Safety

SAMPLE



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