

Hot Work and Fire Extinguishers

About 10 minutes to deliver

Sparks travel 35 feet, a fire watch stays after you stop, and PASS is no use on the wrong class of fire.

Hot work fires rarely start where the work is. Sparks travel — up to 35 feet horizontally, further from height — and they land in something that smoulders for an hour before anyone notices.

BEFORE YOU STRIKE AN ARC

- Hot work permit, where your site requires one. It exists to make somebody walk the area first.
- Clear 35 feet of combustibles in every direction, including below. If it cannot be moved, it gets covered with fire-resistant blankets.
- Look down and behind. Floor openings, wall penetrations, gaps in decking. Sparks go through them and land where nobody is watching.
- Extinguisher within reach, right type, charged, inspected.
- Check the atmosphere if there is any chance of flammable vapour. Never hot work on or in a container that held anything flammable until it has been cleaned and tested.

THE FIRE WATCH

Somebody whose only job is watching for fire — not helping, not fetching, not holding the work.

They stay during the work and for at least 30 minutes after it stops, and longer where the site requires it. Most hot work fires are found in that window, and if nobody is standing there they are found by the smoke alarm at 2am.

EXTINGUISHERS

The classes matter more than the technique:

- A — wood, paper, cloth, trash
- B — flammable liquids, fuel, solvents, grease
- C — energised electrical
- D — combustible metals
- K — cooking oils

Most jobsite extinguishers are ABC and cover the first three. Water on an electrical or a grease fire makes it worse — it conducts, and it spreads burning oil.

PASS: Pull the pin. Aim at the base of the flames, not the flames. Squeeze the handle. Sweep side to side.

KNOW WHEN TO WALK AWAY

An extinguisher buys you seconds against a small fire. If it is bigger than a bin, if it is between you and the exit, or if you are unsure — get out, pull the alarm, call 911. Nothing on this site is worth it.

ASK THE CREW

- Who is the fire watch today, and do they know it is 30 minutes after the work stops?
- Are there floor or wall openings near where we are cutting?
- Where is the nearest extinguisher, and when was it last checked?

29 CFR 1926.150 · 29 CFR 1926.352

This is a toolbox talk, not a course. It is general awareness on one topic — not site-specific, not a hazard assessment, and not a substitute for assessment of your workplace by a competent person, your written programs, or manufacturers' instructions. It does not by itself satisfy any OSHA training requirement. Regulations change; verify against the current standard. Whoever delivers it is responsible for deciding it is suitable and sufficient for the work. Where a talk covers first aid, resuscitation, or mental health it is general safety information, not medical advice, not a substitute for professional medical care or certified emergency-response training, and it confers no certification — in an emergency, call 911. Free to print and use, as is, with no warranty of any kind. Migna Safety Solutions · training.mignasafety.com

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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Hot Work and Fire Extinguishers

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Date

Job / site

Delivered by

Company

#	Print name	Signature	Date
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I delivered this talk and determined it was suitable for this crew and this work.

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