

SAFETY EMPHASIS

Missouri Department of Transportation



Welding and Cutting – Safety Challenge

Welding incidents, like many other incidents, can happen extremely fast. Welders are exposed to many potential hazards on a daily basis. A good welder must learn to evaluate those hazards and avoid those situations before they become incidents.

Welding and Cutting Safety Tips

- Wear appropriate PPE when welding or cutting.
- Make sure there is adequate ventilation.
- Use shields around welding operators to prevent other employees' exposure to glare.
- Be sure you are insulated from live electrical parts.
- Do not weld in close proximity to any explosive materials or in the presence of flammable materials, gases, or vapors.
- Do not weld or cut on containers that have held flammable liquids or vapor.
- Do not weld or cut near combustibles.
- Purge containers with water before welding operations are started.
- Be sure welding machines are grounded.
- Do not touch live electrical parts.
- Keep your head out of the fumes.



Acetylene and Oxygen Safety Tips

- Close all oxygen and acetylene valves before leaving work.
- Always have fire-fighting equipment ready for immediate use.
- Transport, store, and use all compressed gas cylinders in the upright position.
- Oxygen cylinders shall be separated from fuel-gas cylinders or combustible materials at a minimum distance of 20 feet or by a noncombustible barrier at least 5 feet high having a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour.
- Secure all cylinders to holders, walls, or racks with chains or other appropriate means.

Take the time to review the Employee Safety Handbook and the owner's manuals before performing welding and/or cutting operations. Don't forget to use your personal protective equipment and follow safety procedures when working on equipment.

Safety Challenge – True or False?

1. The minimum number of feet oxygen and acetylene tanks should be kept from each other is 20ft. True or False
2. Cylinders can explode if damaged. True or False
3. Cylinders should be moved by tilting and rolling them on their bottom edges. True or False
4. Oxygen and acetylene cylinders should be kept in confined spaces. True or False

Answers: 1. True, 2. True, 3. True, 4. False

Be Careful Out There