

## Toolbox Talk: Hot Work

Fires involving hot works may be rare, but when they occur, the damage to property is often substantial. Sparks and / or smouldering material can quickly spread and cause fires that are hard to bring under control.

Investigations into the causes of hot work fires often find they could have been avoided if proper safety procedures had been implemented / followed.

A Hot Work Permit is required for any temporary operation involving open flames or producing heat and/or sparks, which could ignite nearby items unless they are protected. This includes, but is not limited to, welding, burning, cutting, brazing, grinding, and soldering.

The Hot Work Permit is really nothing more than a formal checklist to ensure that potential safety issues are addressed in the area you will be doing the work and that someone else agrees it is safe to do the work.

Requirements of the Hot Work Permit may include:

- Keeping a good standard of housekeeping / floors to be swept clean.
- Flammable liquids, dust, lint, and oily deposits to be removed.
- Ducts and air vents to be protected or shut down to prevent sparks from being carried to other combustibles.
- All combustibles to be removed where possible. Otherwise, the area will need to be protected with fire resistive tarpaulins or metal shields.
- Portable fire extinguisher, suitable for the type of possible fire, to be readily available at the work area.
- Depending on the area and the work being done, a Fire Watch person may be needed in the area during and after the work is completed.

Some think of the Hot Work Permit as just another piece of paper to fill out while trying to get the job done. However, enough fires have occurred during these types of operations that a formal checklist is required.

The Hot Work Permit helps us all ensure that the area is safe for such operations so that we have a place to return to work to tomorrow.

**If you are unsure about safety arrangements, feel that equipment / systems are not working sufficiently / damaged, or have any concerns / issues about anything, raise it to your line manager / supervisor.**



01327 311 300

[office@safety-management.co.uk](mailto:office@safety-management.co.uk)

[safety-management.co.uk](http://safety-management.co.uk)



**Safety Management Limited**

8 Cottesbrooke Park Heartlands  
Business Park Daventry,  
Northants NN11 8YL