

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

Vol.23 | No.38 | Week of 09-17-24 TORCHES

Date:

Job Name:



Supervisor Signature:

Torches are tools with many uses in the construction industry. A torch mixes a fuel gas with oxygen to provide a flame that is hot enough to heat material, weld, and cut steel. Torches are widely used in construction, but we must not forget the fire and explosion hazards associated with their use.

Accidents, injuries, and deaths are caused by unsafe handling of the torch, using the torch near flammable or combustible materials, cutting or heating drums or cylinders which contained flammable substances, gas leaks, and misuse of oxygen. Take the necessary precautions to avoid accidents by using the equipment safely.

A burning torch is a dangerous piece of equipment that can cause serious burns and ignite flammable materials. Always wear the necessary personal protective equipment including gloves and eye protection. Shut off the torch when it is not in use. Never leave a lit torch on a work surface. Remember that the flame will quickly ignite any flammable or combustible materials it comes in contact with.

No welding, cutting, or heating should be done where flammable paints or coatings are being applied or when there is a high concentration of dust in the air. Before cutting or heating drums, containers, or other hollow structures that have previously contained toxic or flammable substances, they should be filled with water or thoroughly cleaned, ventilated, and tested. Before heat is applied to these hollow structures, a vent or opening must be provided for the release of any pressure that is created during the application of heat.

Always provide adequate ventilation during welding and cutting operations. Position gas cylinders so you can get to them easily in case you need to shut them off quickly. Do not light a torch with a match, cigarette, or hot metal. Use only friction lighters or other approved lighters. Do not use oxygen regulators with acetylene cylinders. Never use any lubricants on regulators or tanks. Inspect hoses and fittings and beware of leaks. Even a tiny leak can create an explosion hazard, especially in a confined space.

Always treat gas cylinders with care. When they are not in use, remove regulators and put protection caps over the valves. Store cylinders in well-ventilated areas and keep them upright.

Torches are dangerous, but you can use them safely if you are aware of the hazards, plan your work, and make careful choices while you're working.



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