

HOT WORK

One of the most prevalent causes of fire and explosion losses within the United States is open flames and sparks. Open flames and sparks, often referred to as "hot work," includes a number of operations such as applying roofing materials, brazing, welding, cutting, grinding, soldering, and in many Northern areas, thawing of frozen pipes. All of these operations can involve the generation of sparks and the presence of an open flame that can easily ignite surrounding combustible and flammable materials.

One specific aspect of all of these types of losses is the presence of human error. Human error involves the things that all people do, or do not do, that become the principal causes of all losses. The losses involve both company personnel and hired contractors, and include the failure to have a "Hot Work" Program in place, or to enforce an existing policy.

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PENNSYLVANIA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

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HOT WORK LOSSES ARE PREVENTABLE

The most effective way to control the losses is to implement and follow a "Hot Work Permit" System. PLM has developed a program to assist you with this exposure and includes the following preventative steps:

- Place fire extinguishers and hoses at the worksite.
- Sweep and clean all work areas within 35 feet of the operation area.
- Wet down the 35-foot area.
- Remove all combustible and flammable materials within the 35-foot area.
- Install PLM WeldCheck lights at the job site.
- Protect all hydraulic lines with covers, guards, or metal shields.
- Cover all wall or floor openings.
- Clean all "hot work" containers of combustible materials.
- Purge all containers of vapor residue.
- Post a fire watch during and after the "hot work" operation for two hours.
- Thoroughly wet down "hot work" area a second time.
- Discard all spent welding rods in designated containers.
- Complete a final check of the work area.



PLM HOT WORK PROGRAM REINFORCES ALL PRECAUTIONS

PLM has developed a "Hot Work" Program that is designed to reinforce that all precautions are taken when performing any type of "hot work." The program involves the use of a formal "Permit System" which details the location of the "hot work" job, reviews the procedures to follow to eliminate the sources of ignition, and requires the signature of a manager or supervisor authorizing the job. The permit allows you to easily tear the copy off and place in your log book for review by Management and PLM representatives on request.

The second part of the program pertains to keeping a log of the "hot work" jobs. A detailed record of the jobs performed should be maintained in a centrally located logbook. that can be reviewed upon request. The logbook is designed so that you and your PLM representative can quickly review the welding program on a regular basis.



PLM HOT WORK PERMIT SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL

If you weld and cut or have open flames, be aware of the importance of preventing losses through administrative procedures and engineering controls. This should become part of the daily routine at your company, including the person performing the job, the person assigning the task, the person maintaining the fire watch, and the top-level management within the organization. Outside contractors also need to comply with the established "Hot Work Permit" Program. The specifics of the program need to be reviewed with all contractors prior to the start of any "hot work" tasks or operations.



Your participation in this program is essential to minimizing and controlling your losses due to "hot work." "Hot work" losses are preventable. The most effective way to control these types of losses is to implement and follow a "Hot Work Permit" System. PLM's "Hot Work Permit" Program outlines specific steps you can take to control these types of losses.