

Low-Risk Hot Work

Rev: 01

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**SAFE WORK GUIDELINE:
LOW-RISK HOT WORK**

Low-risk hot work is any temporary or routine work capable of producing small sparks, flame, or hot surfaces of sufficient energy to ignite nearby ignition-sensitive materials or ordinary combustibles due to prolonged contact with hot surfaces.

Low-risk hot work is not as hazardous as regular hot work as it does not produce flame or sparks that can travel outside the immediate work area, but it can still present a fire risk if conducted near combustible or flammable materials.

Examples of low-risk hot work operations include:

- Using a Bunsen burner in laboratory setting
- Soldering an electrical/electronic component in a workshop setting
- Shrink-wrapping using electrically-heated equipment (e.g. hot air gun or tunnel)
- Hot gluing
- Heat pressing
- Laminating

SAFE WORK GUIDELINES

Low-risk hot work shall only be performed in designated areas listed below. To add additional locations to this list, contact EH&S:

- Science Laboratories
- Maker Studio
- Theatre Workshop
- Audio-Visual Workshop
- Document Services

Keep flammable materials at least 0.6 m / 2 ft from hot surfaces and ignition sources.

If combustible materials (e.g. solvents) must be stored in the area, enclose them in flammable metal cabinets.

Only use equipment on sturdy, solid, non-flammable surfaces. A high temperature-resistant protective mat may be used to protect surfaces from heat sources.

Do not leave hot equipment unattended – turn off and disconnect power when not in use.

Where equipment has a stand or holder (e.g. soldering irons), always return the hot equipment to the stand when not in use – never put it down on the work surface.

Ensure that fire extinguishers are available in or near the low-risk hot work area. At least one worker in the area at the time of the low-risk hot work operations should be trained and competent with fire extinguisher use.



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Inspect equipment before use to confirm it's in good condition. Check user's manual or manufacturer's specifications for maintenance requirements. If equipment does not pass the pre-use inspection, tag it "out of service" and bring to your supervisor. Do not use equipment that is not in good condition.

Wear personal protective equipment appropriate for anticipated hazards. Examples include: fire resistant clothing, long sleeves and pants, heat resistant work gloves, safety glasses, or respirators. Avoid wearing loose clothing and tie back or secure long hair (including beards) that could be caught in equipment. Consult your supervisor for the appropriate PPE for your task.

DEFINITIONS

Hot Work: Any temporary or routine work (operation) involving open-flame, producing hot surfaces, and/or generating sparks or molten material of sufficient energy to ignite combustible, ignitable, and/or flammable materials. Examples of hot work operations include torch-applied roofing, pipe brazing, pipe soldering, arc and torch welding, radial-mechanical and torch cutting, grinding, and post-weld heating using a gas-fired burner or electrical resistance heater.

Low-Risk Hot Work: Any temporary or routine work capable of producing small electrical or electrostatic sparks, flame, or hot surfaces of sufficient energy to ignite ignition-sensitive materials or ordinary combustibles due to prolonged contact with hot surfaces. Examples of low-risk hot work operations include the use of electrically heated hot irons or hot-air blowers and small scale / hobby-sized soldering kits.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Notes
September 2019	01	Creation of Safe Work Guideline