



## DECEMBER 26 — Spark Zone Violation

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| <p>Co-worker was using grinder on steel creating sparks and a nearby coworker (within 15-20 feet) was filling up a welding machine with gasoline.</p> | <p>Immediately stopped coworker from grinding and pointed out to both coworkers the dangers they were creating... grinding did NOT continue until welder was refueled and any residual gas was properly cleaned up.</p> |
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A worker fueled a machine while a coworker was grinding nearby. Gasoline vapors travel farther than people realize and can ignite instantly when sparks drift into the area. The worker didn't intentionally take a risk his mind hadn't finished transitioning from the previous task, so he overlooked the spark hazard entirely.

**When sparks and fumes decide to meet,  
The blast will knock you off your feet.  
Separate tasks and clear the zone  
Keep fire from turning workplace into  
chaos unknown.**

Sequential task fatigue caused a dangerous overlap of incompatible tasks: fueling and hot work.

Fueling near sparks is like filling your lawnmower while someone lights Roman candles next to you.

### Hazards

- Flash fire
- Explosion
- Vapor ignition
- Burns
- Hot-work zoning failure

### Stats

- Gas vapors ignite from over 10 feet away.
- Hundreds of fires occur each year from hot work combined with fueling.

### Words of Wisdom

- Fueling and sparks can't coexist.
- Gasoline doesn't wait for your brain to catch up.

### Pause and Think

Sequential task fatigue occurs when your hands move to a new task before your brain fully resets. Your mind stays "stuck" in the previous job for a few seconds, and during that window, hazards belonging to the new task simply don't register.

That mental lag is exactly why incompatible tasks — like fueling and grinding — can overlap without anyone noticing the danger until it's too late.

- Where does fast task-switching create blind spots?
- What tasks require a deliberate mental reset?
- How do we enforce spark-free fueling zones?