



## September 9 — Protect Yourself from Welding Arc Flash

A customer's employee was welding handrail while another coworker was holding the piece without a face shield or welding hood.

Had him put one on.

### Everyone Around Hot Work Needs Protection

A customer's employee was welding a handrail while another coworker was helping hold the piece in position. The coworker was not wearing a faceshield or welding hood while working near the welding operation.

The employee was instructed to put on the appropriate protection before continuing the task. Even though the coworker was not performing the welding, they were still close enough to be exposed to the hazards created by the welding operation.

The person holding the handrail may not be the one creating the welding arc, but they are still working directly beside it. Welding produces intense light, radiation, sparks, and hot material that can affect anyone within the exposure area. PPE requirements don't change based on who is holding the material. If you are close enough to be exposed, you need the appropriate protection before the welding begins.

### Hazards

- Arc flash to the eyes
- Eye injury from welding radiation
- Burns to exposed skin
- Exposure to sparks and hot material
- Injury to employees assisting with hot work

### Words of Wisdom

PPE isn't just for the person operating the tool. If your job puts you inside the exposure zone, you need the same level of protection as the person creating the hazard.

### Pause and Think

- Are you wearing the proper eye and face protection when working around welding?
- Does everyone assisting with hot work have the appropriate PPE?
- Are you close enough to the welding arc to be exposed?
- Have you considered the hazards to the person helping hold the material?
- Is additional protection needed before the work begins?

### Closing Thought

Hot work doesn't only affect the person holding the welding gun. Protect everyone who is close enough to be exposed.