



September 2 – Stop the Hot Work

Replacing the propane tank on a forklift while welding nearby(operator removing the propane tank and let it bleed off while others performing hot work near)	Stop the hot work air out the area
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When Hot Work Meets Flammable Materials

Welding and other hot-work activities create heat, sparks and ignition sources. That means we need to pay attention not only to the person doing the welding, but also to what is happening around them.

In this situation, a propane tank was being removed from a forklift and was allowed to bleed off while welding was taking place nearby. Even though the welding and propane work were separate tasks, they were happening close enough to create a serious potential for an incident.

The right decision was to stop the hot work and address the propane release first.

This is a good example of why we need to look beyond our own task and communicate with other crews working in the same area. A job that is safe by itself can become dangerous when another activity introduces a new hazard. Before starting hot work, make sure you know what is happening around you and stop if another task creates a potential ignition or fire hazard.

Hazards

- Flammable propane gas near an ignition source
- Welding sparks and hot metal
- Fire or flash-fire potential
- Flammable atmosphere
- Multiple crews performing conflicting tasks
- Failure to recognize hazards created by another work activity

Words of Wisdom

Hot work requires more than watching the flame. Look around your work area, identify what could create a fire or explosion hazard, and separate conflicting work before you begin.

Pause and Think

- What activities around us could create a flammable atmosphere?
- Before starting hot work, what should we look for in the surrounding area?
- Are there other crews working nearby that could create a hazard for our task?
- What should you do if you discover a conflicting activity?
- Would you be willing to stop a job that wasn't yours if you saw a potential fire hazard?

Closing Thought

Don't just look at your own task. Look at what's happening around you. A safe job can become an unsafe job when two hazards meet.