SHARP START

February 24 — Incomplete Hot Work Permit

Stopped colleague's The hot work permit filled out incomplete the fire watch section not done flammable materials with in 20 feet away !! Colleague's stick welding handrail overhead sparks coming down !!!	**Had the control room operator finished filling out the permit. Assigned a fire watch person wetted floor down and cover product bags with a fire blanket and went back to work!!!**

Hot work was observed being performed overhead while flammable materials were located within approximately 20 feet. The hot work permit was incomplete, with the fire watch section not filled out, and sparks were falling into the area below. Work was stopped and the hazard was addressed.

A plate was gone, wires in sight,
Looked like a fix would make it right.
Dig one layer, what do you see?
More work needed that's safety.

The welding itself wasn't the only issue the system designed to control the risk had broken down. A hot work permit is meant to force crews to think through hazards before sparks start flying. When sections are skipped, the work continues without the controls that prevent fires and injuries. Overhead welding multiplies the risk because sparks travel downward into areas the welder can't see.

A permit that isn't complete is a warning sign, not paperwork.

Hazards

- Ignition of flammable materials below the work area
- Burns or injuries to workers underneath
- Hidden smoldering fires that ignite later
- Loss of control over hot work conditions
- Escalation into a serious fire or explosion

Stats

- Hot work is one of the leading causes of industrial fires
- Many job-site fires involve incomplete or ignored permit controls
- Overhead welding significantly increases spark travel distance
- Fire watch presence is a critical factor in preventing hot work incidents

Words of Wisdom

- A permit skipped is a hazard created.
- If sparks fall, controls must rise.

Pause and Think

Permits can feel like paperwork when the job is familiar. That's when people start skipping steps, assuming they already know the risks. But hot work changes environments instantly. The fire watch, distance checks, and material controls exist because sparks don't behave predictably. Stopping work when the permit isn't complete is not overreacting it's doing the job right.

- What does the fire watch section actually protect against?
- Why are overhead welds more dangerous than ground-level welds?
- Who is responsible for verifying the permit before striking an arc?