



January 7 — Burn & Arc Hazard

Went to use a borrowed welder. The amps were at 600.

Made everyone aware of the situation that could have occurred.

Borrowed tools come with hidden settings. The welder looked ready, but the energy level was far above what the task likely required. That turns a normal weld into a high-energy hazard increased arc intensity, spatter, heat, and burn potential. Without checking the settings first, the operator inherits someone else's risk.

**A welder set high will burn and bite,  
More heat than needed, more wrong than right.  
Turn it down before you strike,  
So sparks behave the way you like.**

Energy doesn't announce itself. It only shows up when it's already too late.

## Hazards

- Severe arc flash or arc burn
- Excessive spatter causing burns or fires
- Damage to equipment or material
- Increased fire risk in the work area
- Eye injury from intensified arc brightness

## Stats

- Arc intensity and burn severity increase rapidly with higher amperage
- Many welding injuries occur due to improper machine setup
- Borrowed or shared equipment increases the likelihood of incorrect settings
- Excessive heat is a leading cause of welding-related fires

## Words of Wisdom

- Never trust the last setting.
- Set the tool for the job every time.

## Pause and Think

When a tool looks ready, people treat it as ready. Borrowed equipment breaks that assumption. The last user's setup becomes your starting point, whether it's safe or not. Taking a moment to verify settings before energizing the tool is what keeps someone else's shortcut from becoming your injury.

- What settings matter most before using this tool?
- How do we verify energy levels before starting work?
- What risks increase when we use shared or borrowed equipment?