



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

A set of cutting torches, a welder, and a grinder are invaluable tools to help with repairs at a farm and in many job tasks tied to maintenance, repairs, equipment, or construction. These operations that involve open flames, heat, or sparks are called hot work; it can ignite flammable or combustible materials. So, to state the seemingly obvious, the heightened risk of fire is the greatest concern.

Prepare and cleanup the area where you will be doing hot work before you start. **Remove or protect all flammables and combustibles within 35 feet.**

- Move anything flammable, like cans of gasoline or lacquer thinner (especially empty ones) and all aerosol cans.
- Move or protect combustibles – dry grass, remnants from harvest time, cloth pieces, equipment seat or electrical/hose protective sleeves.
- Cleanup or protect any greasy or oily areas, and don't forget to move those shop, work rags.
- Shield a fire hazard that cannot be cleaned up or removed from contact using a fire-resistant shield such as a piece of metal or fire-resistant blanket ... and no, a piece of dry cardboard or old shirt cannot be substituted. (This may include blocking wall openings or open spaces so heat/sparks cannot access adjacent areas.)

For more info contact:

Leslie Woolington

MAFES/MSU-ES Risk Mgmt.

LHW4@msstate.edu

662-325-3204

Hot work operations should NOT be done ...

- In flammable or potentially flammable atmospheres.
- On tanks/drums/equipment that have contained flammable gas or liquid or combustible liquid or dust-producing material, until it has been tested to determine not a hazardous atmosphere.
- Near any area in which exposed readily ignitable materials such as baled hay/paper or cotton are stored.

Be watchful & ready to react quickly during and after hot work.

- Know how to call 911 for emergency responders and how to quickly evacuate occupants if doing hot work inside a building.
- Have a fire extinguisher near the work area and available for those on fire watch duty (and know how to use it).
- After completion of hot work in a high-risk operation (for example - inside a building, on a roof, or on complex equipment) a fire watch shall be provided during the hot work activities and shall continue for not less than one hour after the conclusion of the work.

For additional information about hot work permits that may be required for operations at MSU visit <https://www.ehs.msstate.edu/focus-areas/fire-life-safety/hot-work>.

Sources:

www.osha.gov

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018/chapter-35-welding-and-other-hot-work>