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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series by Safety Provisions! Today, we'll be discussing fire watch safety.



The main goals for fire watchers are to prevent unsafe work environments and protect employees from serious, life-threatening incidents involving fire hazards. Statistics show that around 60 workers suffer fatal injuries from welding operations each year, many of which could have been avoided if a fire watcher had been onsite.

Consider the following story. Kevin was scheduled as fire watcher while his co-worker, Ted, welded parts. He was accustomed to fire watch duties and never had any issues before, so Kevin was not worried about any incidents taking place.





During operations, Kevin received a phone call from his wife. He thought Ted was experienced enough to handle the job himself, so Kevin answered his phone and stepped outside to hear better.

However, because Kevin was distracted with his phone call, he was not there to notice the sparks flying off Ted's project. These sparks flew and landed on several pieces of equipment, which started a fire. Ted was focused on his project and did not notice the fire, and Kevin was not there to put it out.



Unfortunately, the fire grew too large for Ted to put out himself. Someone else noticed the flames and took action; however, Ted was already dead.



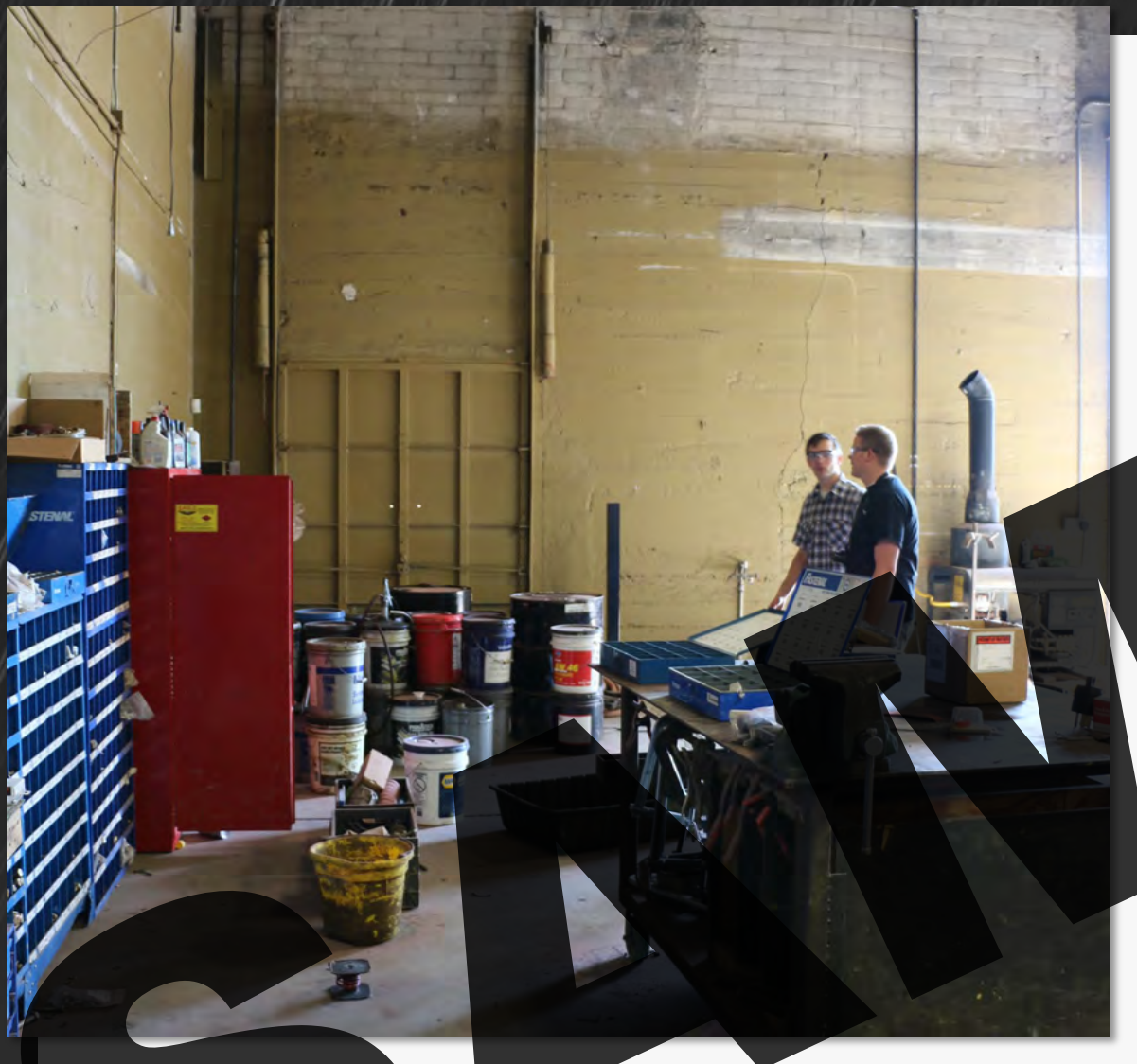
If Kevin had not become distracted during his watch and left his post, this incident could have been mitigated or avoided entirely. It is your duty as fire watcher to ensure hot work operations are done safely. Always be alert for potential hazards.



DEFINITION

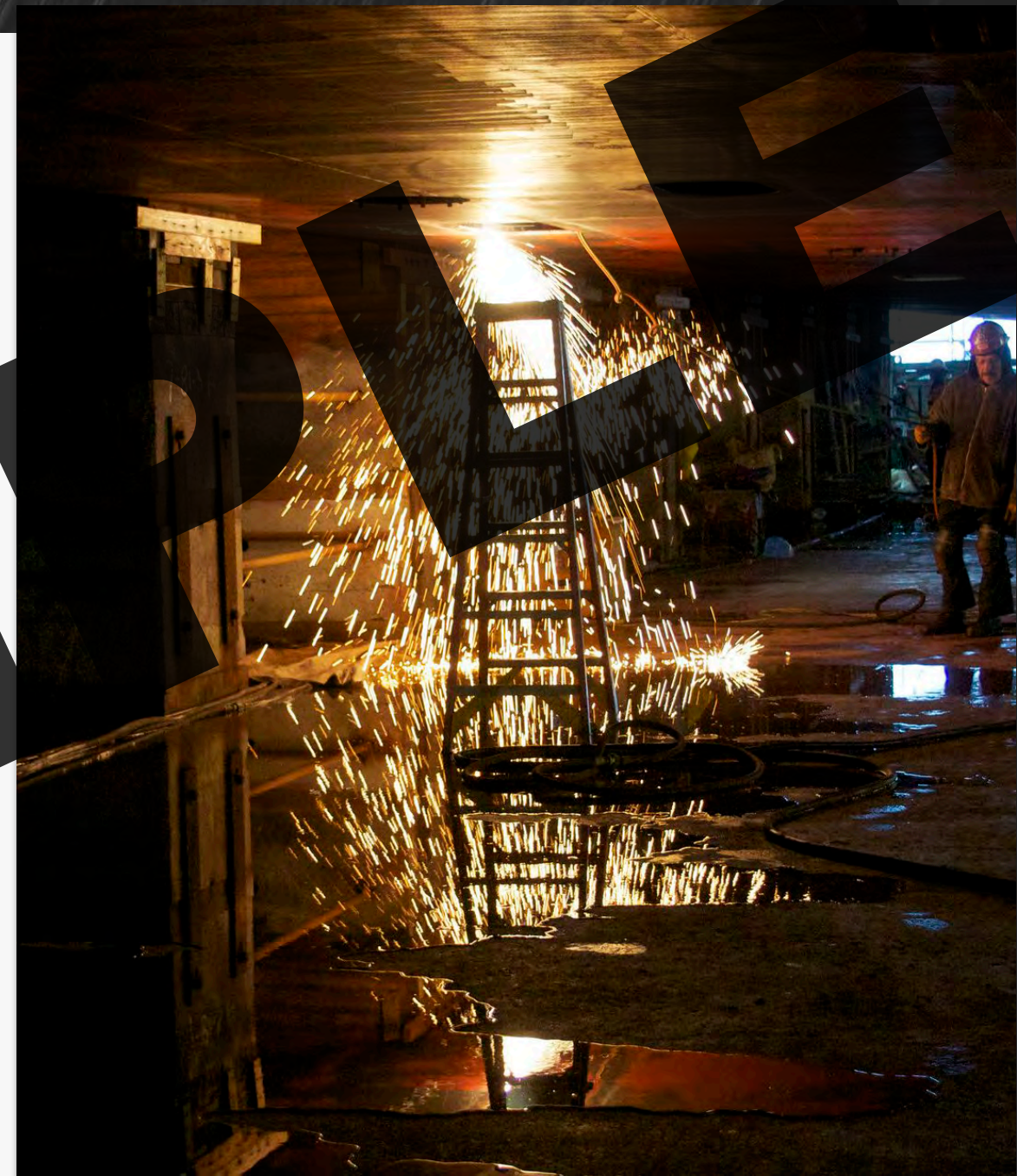
Hot work is any work involving burning or welding. It includes the use of fire – or spark – producing tools.





Our goal is to help you understand the purpose of fire watch and how to perform its associated duties. This training will divide your responsibilities as fire watcher into two parts: before operations and during operations.

In the first section, we will go over the needed training to become a fire watcher. You will also learn how to conduct pre-shift inspections of the workplace, as well as how to prepare an area for hot work.





Following that, we will discuss how to monitor hot work and how to respond to an emergency. Then, the training will finish with an explanation of fire watch duties after hot work operations are completed.

Throughout this training, we will look at real, investigated accident profiles. In some cases, two or three similar accidents have been combined for the purpose of illustrating key safety principles. They will show just how quickly things can go wrong when safety procedures are ignored, resulting in injuries or fatalities.

SAMPLE

STANDARDS

These are some of the main standards concerning today's topic. Many states or provinces have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided these as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, local, and company rules that apply to your job site.



29 CFR 1915.504 - Fire Watches

29 CFR 1915.502 - Fire Safety Plan

29 CFR 1915.503 - Precautions for Hot Work


29 CFR 1910.38 - Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, and Fire Prevention Plans

29 CFR 1910.133 - Eye and Face Protection

General Industry 1910.352 – Welding, Cutting and Brazing

29 CFR 1926.24 - Fire Protection and Prevention

29 CFR 1915.14 - Hot Work



No matter the situation, it's important to ask, "Where do I stand?" While experience is deemed "qualified" in some situations, the answer is no. Experience helps, yes, but regulations are very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they've been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing that safety training, ensuring employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed to operate safely.

WHY TRAINING?


INITIAL TRAINING and REFRESHER TRAINING, as well as any WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL EVALUATIONS, must be documented and filed. At the very least, employers need to show proof of PROPER AND CONSISTENT TRAINING (in the way of TRAINING OUTLINES, CLASS LISTS, TRAINING GOALS, TESTS, CERTIFICATES, and SO ON.) These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.





However, training is **NOT** just a one-and-done occurrence; it is **ON-GOING**. In fact, training should take place whenever there is a demonstrated need for it.

Employees **MUST** receive **REFRESHER TRAINING** in the following instances...



1

There are changes in their assigned duties



2

SAMPLE

There are changes regarding potential exposure hazards, for which the employee has not received training



3

5

Any deficiency has been noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers

4

An accident has occurred, or an employee has been injured (or nearly injured) during operations

The extent of training will be determined by the employer, but at the very least it should include **CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION** followed by a **WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL EXAMINATION** that prove continued competency.



Before Operations



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