

Executive Summary

THE BGSU HOT WORK PROGRAM

In 1970, the United States Congress established the right of workers to "safe and healthful working conditions" through the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In July 1994, Federal OSHA standards became effective for Ohio public employers, including Bowling Green State University and other state agencies through the Ohio Public Employee Risk Reduction Act. On October 7th of that same year, the BGSU Board of Trustees established the following policy: "It is Bowling Green State University's policy to comply with the occupational safety and health standards of the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act and all applicable Federal, State and Local rules, regulations and directives."

Welding, cutting, and brazing is one of the OSHA standards adopted under the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act. This standard also incorporates by reference the National Fire Protection Association standard for fire prevention during welding, cutting, and other hot work. These standards detail specific provisions for work involving burning, welding or similar operations that are capable of initiating fires or explosions to minimize the probability of property loss and personal injury. The standards require basic precautions including: responsibility for hot work, protection of personnel, removing, guarding, or shielding combustibles, trained and equipped fire watch/s, designated welding areas, authorized written hot work permits and training and communication. Hot work is any work involving burning, welding, or similar operations that are capable of initiating fires or explosions. This program shall cover the following hot work processes:

- Welding and Allied Processes
- Heat Treating
- Grinding
- Thawing Pipe
- Powder-Driven Fasteners
- Hot Riveting
- Similar Application Producing a Spark, Flame or Heat

The Hot Work Program outlines safe practices and procedures for these activities.

The objective of the Hot Work Program is to establish requirements for the processes discussed above. This program applies to all university employees, including Firelands, involved in hot work. The program identifies the responsibilities of all parties involved including: the Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, Fire Safety Officer, Design and Construction, outside contractors, management (department chairpersons and directors), Permit Authorizing Individuals (PAI), Fire Watch, supervisors, and employees (Hot Work Operators).

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