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**Client Update: NOVEMBER 2000.** Please circulate to all who need to be advised or who may be affected.



**HOT WORK, HOSES & FIRE!**

The photograph opposite (& the two others below) serve as a graphic reminder of what can happen when the key steps of:  
Operator training  
Equipment maintenance  
Work area preparation (cleaning, shielding, etc.)  
Use of Fire Sentry  
Shut down and  
FOLLOW-UP CHECKING for smouldering, etc.  
ARE COMPROMISED OR IGNORED.

Fortunately, in this recent incident, nobody was injured.  
Inevitably though, the Fire Service was put in danger dealing with the heat affected oxygen and acetylene cylinders.  
In addition, the neighbour companies and their staff were inconvenienced because the whole industrial estate had to be evacuated.



**REMEMBER: WORM-DRIVE CLIPS ON HOSES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE**

The final photograph (below) shows the remains of the [single-stage, two-gauge] oxygen regulator. It's opposite number (the acetylene regulator) finished up in a much worse condition being [effectively] welded to the cylinder valve. As a result, this item was recovered with the heat-affected cylinder by the owner (i.e. the gas company concerned).



**SO, REMEMBER...**

- Check that the welding or cutting equipment is in good condition and suitable for the job in hand. Only properly trained and experienced personnel should carry out hot Work.
- **HOSES SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN NECESSARY FOR THE WORK IN HAND, OF EQUAL LENGTHS FOR EACH GAS AND ALWAYS FULLY EXTENDED.**
- Check that the work area within >10 metres radius is free from flammables.
- Check that any flammables which cannot be moved are suitably screened / shielded.
- Check that any pedestrians won't be unduly affected by arc-flash, sparks, spatter & so forth.
- Don't work alone - use a Fire Sentry - a second pair of eyes watching for smouldering and small fires. The fire sentry should, of course, be equipped with a suitable fire extinguisher.
- Shut the equipment down properly (isolate the cylinders, vent hoses down, clear the equipment away, etc.).
- Ensure that the area is properly checked for signs of smouldering at least twice - once as the work is completed and second following a specified time period (< 1 hour, minimum).
- **CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING A FORMAL SYSTEM FOR THE ASSESSMENT & RECORDING OF HOT WORK HAZARDS, RISKS AND CONTROL MEASURES.**
- **CONSIDER USING FLAME RETARDANT PROTECTIVE FILM (e.g. FireSentry) TO CREATE A SAFER WORK AREA (LIMITING THE EGRESS OF HOT SPARKS, PROTECTING PASSERS BY FROM ARC-EYE, ETC., ETC.).**

If you need any help or advice on any of these safety issues (oxy/fuel safety, Hot Work Assessment, supplies of the FireSentry protective film, etc., etc.) just drop me a note or give me a call.

Best regards, David Bayliss, GasSafety UK (A Division of BJ Industries Ltd)  
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