

# Welding

## AgSafe Safe Work Procedure

1. Wherever possible move all objects to a safe place prior to heating or welding. Remove or effectively screen all fire hazards where the welding job is to take place.
2. Do not cut or weld any steel drum that might have contained flammables until it has been properly cleaned and tested. Flushing with water is not sufficient.
3. Where it is necessary to catch falling sparks and slag use glass fiber blankets or fire retardant welding tarpaulin.
4. Keep an appropriate type fire extinguisher available at all times.
5. Be sure that there is sufficient general ventilation where welding fumes and gases can accumulate, use local exhaust ventilation to remove the contaminants.
6. In poorly ventilated areas, the gases can accumulate and displace the air, causing an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Proper ventilation is required when using inert gases while welding.
7. All workers engaged in welding or burning operations must wear:
  - a. Flame retardant work clothing
  - b. Leather gauntlet type gloves and arm protection
  - c. An apron of leather or other suitable material for heavy work
  - d. Eye and face protection equipment to protect against harmful radiation, or particles or molten metal, or while chipping or grinding welds.
  - e. Substantial safety footwear made of leather or other equally firm material.
8. Protect any load bearing ropes or cables from the effects of welding operations.

9. Ensure that whenever possible a welding screen is placed between the welder and other workers so as to protect them from harmful flashes.
10. Ensure that all cables are neatly placed flat along the ground so as not to be a tripping hazard.
11. When arc welding the follow these procedures:
12. Use only electrode holders specifically designed for arc welding. Do not place electrodes against a gas cylinder to strike an arc.
13. Check that all cables, insulated connectors, and ground connections are capable of handling the current, and that the insulation is in good condition.
14. No arc welding must be carried out unless all workers exposed to radiation from the arc flash wear suitable eye protection or are protected by adequate fire resistant screen, curtains, or partitions.
15. All welding work areas must be kept tidy to eliminate slipping or tripping hazards.

Please use the following **Safe Work Procedures** as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures.