

HOT WORK - SAFETY PRACTICE

OVERVIEW

The following WHS Safety Practice describes the process of hot work when requested by the client or contract of works.

Hot Work is to be properly assessed prior to commencing work, to ensure it is carried out safely and so as not to produce sources of ignition in areas where flammable gases, liquids or solids may be present.

Hot Work includes welding, naked-flame work, spark-producing work and equipment, vehicles and electrical equipment i.e. any work which may create an ignition source.

Hazardous Area is an area where flammable, gases liquids or solids may be present, as defined in AS/NZS 60079 Explosive Atmospheres.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Management	Ensure resources, systems and processes are in place to manage hot work safely.
Project Manager	Ensure hot work activities are planned and comply with project and client requirements.
Site Manager	Assess risks, implement controls, issue Hot Work Permits and monitor compliance.
HSE Team	Provide guidance, support and monitoring to ensure compliance with this Safety Practice.
Workers	Follow permit requirements, use required PPE, and report hazards or unsafe conditions.

1. RISK ASSESSMENT

Guidance:

The Site Manager must identify the hazards associated with hot work.

Suitable control measures must be identified before any hot work can commence on site.

Control measures may include:

- Plant and equipment isolation ([Isolation – Safety Practice '90.02.11'](#));
- Residues of flammable materials and testing for flammable gasses and dusts ([Confined Space – Safety Practice '90.02.06'](#));
- Tools, equipment and materials to be used for the work, including power tools ([Electrical Safety – Safety Practice '90.02.05'](#));
- Access and escape routes refer to the [Emergency Management Procedure \(90.01.12\)](#);
- Containment of sparks and flames;
- Any other hazard which may apply to a particular task or location; or
- Personal Protective Equipment to be used.

2. HOT WORK PERMIT

Guidance:

A site may be deemed to require a hot work permit system, which will be used for all welding, cutting and grinding.

Before issuing a Hot Work Permit (Form 943 / Hammertech) the Site Manager will assess the hazards involved with the task.

A Hot Work Permit (Form 943 / Hammertech) shall be issued daily by the Site Manager and will expire at the end of each working day if no end time is stipulated.

The Subcontractor will be required to provide a JHA / SWMS which outlines methods to hot work and then apply for a hot work permit.

Using each JHA/SWMS as reference the Site Manager will issue all hot work permits for site.

The hot work permit should specify:

- Area that hot work permit can be carried out
- Time allowed for hot work.
- Control Measures
- Fire control measures
- PPE Requirements

When hot works are completed the Subcontractor and the Site Manager will sign off the hot work permit.

On completion of the job the area is to be tidied up and a fire check made of the area 30 minutes after hot work has ceased. When the work is completed, the Hot Work Permit is signed off.

The Site Manager will ensure that subcontractors are complying with control measures specified in the Hot Work Permit during daily inspections.

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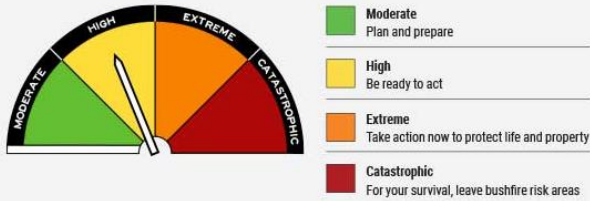
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Fire Danger Rating Days

Hot work refers to the operation in the open air of welding apparatus or power operated abrasive cutting discs.

If the area is fully enclosed with all doors and windows closed hot works can continue as normal.

The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) levels are:



What requirements do I need to comply with, to carry out hot work during a Total Fire Ban?

Operator Responsibilities - Follow the Steps!

Check	- Confirm if it's a TFB - DFES Total Fire Ban + www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#totalfirebans - Phone: TFB hotline 1800 709 355
Notify	- Notify DFES and the relevant local government by completing the DFES online notification form between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing. - Notify Parks and Wildlife Service (P&W) between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing where the activity is occurring within 3 kms of land managed by P&W.
Proceed	Subject to prescribed activity conditions, proceed with the activity as required.

To conduct Hot works outside during a Total Fire Ban, DFES Notification must be provided at least 30 minutes and no more than 24 hours prior to the hot work commencing during a Total Fire Ban.

Notification must be provided via the TFB & Exemption Online Notification Form on the DFES website at dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans.

The form notifies both DFES and the relevant local government.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) must be notified if the hot work is conducted within 3 km of land they manage. The TFB & Exemption Online Notification Form includes a DBCA map and contact information.

The following conditions must be met before works can begin and the Total Fire Ban Activity Checklist – Hot Works must be completed (Checklist available at DEFS web site);

- Fire-resistant barriers sufficient to prevent the escape of hot particles or sparks must be placed around the hot work.
- The ground within a 10 m radius of the hot work must be clear of flammable material and damped down with water.
- The work site must comply with applicable fire break notice requirements.
- A minimum of two fire extinguishers must be located in close proximity to the hot work. (Fire extinguisher means a fire extinguisher suitable to extinguishing a fire that could be caused by the activity;
 - has a minimum capacity in total of 9 kg or 9 L (i.e. can be 2 x 4.5 kg/L); and complies with current Australian Standard.
 - If the hot work is carried out within 30 m of any vegetation, the amount of firefighting water set out in the table below must be provided on the work site, in a water tank(s) mounted to firefighting vehicle(s).

Fire danger forecast for the work site	Volume of firefighting water required (litres)
No Rating	500L
Moderate	1000L
High	1500L
Extreme	2500L

- During hot work, all firefighting vehicles must be present and capable of traversing the site.
- If there is no reticulated water supply within 1 km of the work site, a bulk water supply tanker with at least 5000L of water (in addition to any required firefighting water in the table above) must be present during the hot work and for 30 minutes after completion.
- At all times during the hot work, a minimum of one fire detection officer is required, who is dedicated solely to detecting and suppressing any fire the hot work may cause.

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- The fire detection officer and one other person (minimum) must stay on the site with any required firefighting vehicle(s) for at least 30 minutes after the hot work is complete until they are sure there is no fire or anything likely to start one.

Definitions

Open air means anywhere not fully enclosed by a building or structure.

Fire break notice means a notice issued by the relevant local government under section 33(1) Bush Fires Act 1954.

Fire extinguisher means a fire extinguisher suitable to extinguishing a fire that could be caused by the activity;

has a minimum capacity in total of 9 kg or 9 L (i.e. can be 2 x 4.5 kg/L); and complies with current Australian Standards.

Firefighting vehicle means a vehicle that:

- has one or more water storage tanks mounted upon it;
- is located in close proximity to the hot work;
- is capable of traversing the site;
- is equipped with:
 - at least 20 m of 19 mm diameter fire hose fitted with an adjustable nozzle in proper working order, having a full spray pattern capable of projecting a 6 m jet of water; and
 - a pump in proper working order that is capable of delivering a minimum of 120 L of water per minute at 700 kPa through the hose.

A fire detection officer is someone other than the person doing the hot work who is trained in the use of the fire extinguishers, the operation of the firefighting vehicle (if one is required), and the suppression and fighting of bushfires (if hot work is within 30m of vegetation).

A Perkins Hot work permit must still be completed

Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate personnel protective equipment will be used when completing hot work which shall include, welding glasses, safety glasses, gloves, steel capped boots, leather apron and hearing protection.

Hot Work Permits shall be issued daily and will expire at the end of each working day if no end time is stipulated.

3. GAS WELDING / CUTTING

Guidance:

Gas cylinders must be appropriately secured and protected from damage or the uncontrolled release of its contents while the cylinder is being used, moved, or stored.

Cylinders must not be lifted or lowered by mechanical means unless:

- it is contained in an appropriate type of box; or
- it is lifted or lowered using attachments that are suitable for the task being performed.

A flashback arrester must be fitted on all gas bottles on the operator's side of each regulator connection or gas discharge of the cylinder and to the blowpipe. This does not apply to a gas cylinder that is used with atmospheric air.

4. ELECTRICAL WELDING

Guidance:

All electrical welding must be protected by protective screens and/or fire blankets to protect persons in the vicinity of the welding from harmful rays produced by the process.

Ventilation must be provided in areas where welding is taking place for extraction of fumes generated by the welding or the allied process and the means of ventilation should be as close as practicable to the point where the welding or allied process is done.

All welding or allied process must be done in accordance with the provisions of AS 1674 applying to the type of welding or allied process.

All portable electrical welding equipment must be inspected and tagged quarterly.

5. TRAINING

Guidance:

Perkins Builders will provide Site Managers with training on hot work process where required.

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LINK TO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Isolation – Safety Practice '90.02.11'](#)
- [Confined Space – Safety Practice '90.02.06'](#)
- [Electrical Safety – Safety Practice '90.02.05'](#)
- [Emergency Management Procedure \(90.01.12\)](#)

REFERENCES

- Bush Fires Act 1954
- Bush Fires Regulations 1954
- Work Health and Safety Act 2020
- Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022
- AS 1674.1:2025 Safety in welding and allied processes - Fire precautions
- AS/NZS 60079.14:2022 Explosive atmospheres, Part 14: Design selection, erection and initial inspection

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