

## Tool Box Talk – Hot Metal Hazards

- Welders are frequently exposed to hot metals. There are several hazards to be aware of while you are working.
  - The main hazards are inhalation of fumes, skin burns, eye hazards, and fires. Welders are most frequently exposed when welding, cutting, and soldering.
  - Protect yourself from exposure to harmful concentrations of metal fumes. Potentially harmful fumes include, but are not limited to hexavalent chromium, cadmium, nickel, zinc, and manganese.
  - Overexposure to metal fumes can result in many kinds of health issues, depending on the type of fumes and the degree of overexposure. Examples of some of the potential health issues are kidney damage, reproductive defects, birth defects, and cancer.
  - Make sure the area you are working in is well ventilated. If it is not, stop work and report the problem to your supervisor.
  - Keep molten metal away from moisture and protect your skin by wearing fire resistant clothing.
  - Always wear the proper eye protection. When working around molten metal, use flame resistant cup goggles and a face shield. If there is exposure to ultraviolet radiation, infrared radiation or visible glare, make sure you wear eye protection with appropriate shaded lenses. If you are not sure about what to wear, ask your supervisor before you start work.
  - Be aware of the fire hazards when working around hot metals. Hot metals are an ignition source, so keep the area clear of combustible materials such as trash, grease, oily rags, etc.
- Keep hot metals away from gas cylinders and flammable and combustible liquids like gasoline or solvents.