

Tool Box Talk – Jobsite Fire Watch

- Considering all of the hot work we do on a daily basis it's remarkable that there are not more jobsite fires. However, there are still too many jobsite fires each year. Some of them are caused, at least in part, by what we do for a living.
- There are several things you should always do to help prevent fires:
 - Maintaining good housekeeping practices in your work areas, and take steps to contain your welding sparks and other ignition sources such as sparks generated from grinding and pipe cutting.
 - The last line of defense against jobsite fires is fire watch.
 - Be sure to stop all hot work at least 30 minutes before leaving the jobsite.
 - If you are not the designated fire watch, find that person before you leave and let him know that you are finished for the day.
 - If you are the fire watch that day, check around the hot work areas for signs of fire such as smoke or smoldering materials.
 - Use the 30-minute period to finish other job tasks, clean up the area, and put tools and equipment away for the day.
 - Go back to the hot work areas at the end of the 30-minute period and check them again for signs of fire.
 - If the welding was done on an upper floor where sparks could drift to a lower level, make sure you check the lower floors for signs of fire too.
 - Pay special attention to areas where combustible materials such as paper, cardboard, wood scraps, and sawdust have accumulated.
 - Don't forget to look for fire signs in areas where grinding, pipe cutting, and other spark-generating tasks were performed that day.