



Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department Office of the Fire Marshal

1225 Courthouse Road, PO BOX 339, Stafford, VA 22555
(540) 658-8648 · www.staffordfireandrescue.com/fm



Guidelines and Specifications For:

Hot Work Program

Applicable Codes and Standards:

VSFPC - Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (2018)

NFPA 51B – National Fire Protection Association Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work (2018)

General	Code Section
Hot work is defined as operations including cutting, welding, thermit welding, brazing, soldering, grinding, thermal spraying, thawing pipe, installation of torch applied roof systems or any other similar activity.	VSFPC 202
When approved by the Fire Official (annual permit from the Fire Marshal's Office), a Hot Work Program allows approved personnel to regulate their facility's or organization's hot work operations. The approved personnel shall be trained in the fire safety aspects denoted in this chapter and shall be responsible for issuing permits requiring compliance with the requirements found in "this chapter". These permits shall be issued only to their employees or hot work operations under their supervision. Hot Work permits are not required for work that is conducted under a construction permit from the Building Official.	VSFPC 107.2
Records of employee training as well as all permits issued shall be maintained for the past three years and shall be available for review by the Fire Official upon request.	VSFPC 107.2
Hot work is only to be done in areas designed or authorized for that purpose by personnel responsible for the Hot Work Program. Unauthorized access shall be prohibited. Before hot work is permitted and at least once per day while the permit is in effect, the area shall be inspected by the individual responsible for authorizing the hot work operations to ensure that it is a fire safe area (Pre-hot-work checklist).	VSFPC 3501.3

Hot Work Locations	Code Section
Hot work areas shall not contain combustible materials within 35 feet of the operation unless provided with appropriate shielding to prevent sparks, slag or heat from igniting exposed combustibles.	VSFPC 3504.1.1
Permits and completed "Pre-hot-work checklist" issued by the Hot Work Program shall be onsite and visible throughout the entire hot work operation.	VSFPC 3503.3



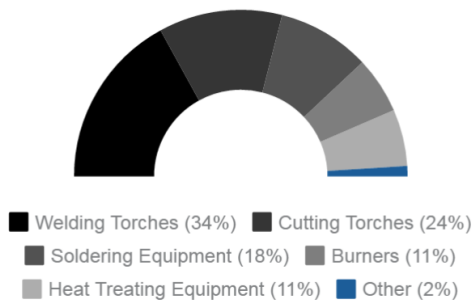
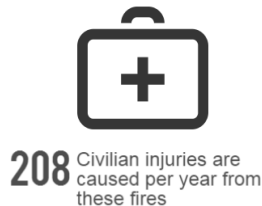
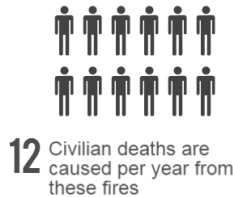
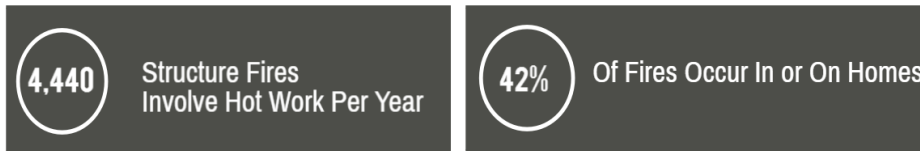
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Openings to other adjacent areas shall be covered or separated by non-combustible materials. Floor shall be non-combustible and swept clean.	VSFPC 3504.1.2 VSFPC 3504.1.3
Unless specifically approved by the Fire Official, Hot Work is not to be conducted in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas where the sprinkler system or fire alarm is impaired (Out of Service). 2. Areas where there exists the potential of an explosive atmosphere, such as locations where flammable gases, liquids, or vapors are present. 3. Areas with readily ignitable materials, such as storage of large quantities of bulk sulfur, baled paper, cotton, lint, dust or loose combustible materials. 4. On board ships at dock or ships under construction or repair. 5. At other locations as specified by the Fire Official. 	VSFPC 3501.3
An oxygen-fuel gas system and equipment shall comply with NFPA 51 and be in satisfactory condition/in good repair.	VSFPC 3501.5 NFPA 51
Fire Watch REQUIRED!	Code Section
A fire watch shall be provided during hot work activities and shall continue for a minimum of 30 minutes after the conclusion of the work.	VSFPC 3504.2.1
Individuals designated to fire watch duty shall have fire-extinguishing equipment readily available and shall be trained in the use of the equipment. They shall be responsible for extinguishing spot fires and communicating an alarm.	VSFPC 3504.2.3

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



	Home Fires	Non-Home Incidents
Peak Areas	Wall assemblies, Concealed spaces, Bathrooms	Exterior roof surfaces, Processing/manufacturing areas
First Ignited	Structural members, Framing, Insulation	Flammable/combustible liquids, gases, and Exterior roof coverings or finish

From the Structure Fires Caused by Hot Work NFPA Report. www.nfpa.org/hotworkreport



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards