

HSE Toolbox Talk

See HSE Web at <http://tcs-hse.bpweb.bp.com/> for more HSE Resources

Fire Watch: One of the Key Hot Work Responsibilities



Planning, communication vital to hot work safety

Fire Watch—Since the very nature of hot work carries with it the potential for fires, the presence of someone dedicated to observing the work and prepared to cope with fire dangers is critical to conducting a safe project. The fire watch responsibility is filled by an individual dedicated to monitoring the hot work site for any change in conditions or for signs of fires—including small or smoldering fires. A fire watch is responsible for shutting the job down if a hazardous situation develops, for activating fire protection equipment and for summoning emergency responders if necessary. Following the completion of hot work, the fire watch must survey the work area for any sign of small or smoldering fires. Potential ignition sources must be removed or controlled. If appreciable combustible materials within 35' of the hot work site can not be removed or protected during the hot work, the fire watch must remain on site for 30 minutes.

Other key responsibilities include:

Supervision — Supervision is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented consistently from shift to shift and from unit to unit; for providing appropriate training and resource materials; and for sponsoring the compliance audit.

Operations Representative — An operations representative is responsible for completing the ATW form, for executing the Hazardous Energy isolation procedure (if required), and for issuing the Hot Work permit.

Note: For non-operating areas, the role of the operations representative will be filled by the equipment "owner" (e.g. Maintenance Shop, Truck Garage, Laboratory, etc.).

Work Crew Representative (BP) — A work crew representative is responsible for initiating the ATW form, and for executing the Hazardous Energy isolation procedure (if required).

Work Crew Member (BP and Contractor) — Each work crew member is responsible for reviewing the ATW form, for applying their Personal (Red) lock to the control of hazardous energy lockbox (if required), and for reviewing the hot work permit prior to the initial start of the job on their shift and for understanding and complying with the requirements.

BP Job Representative — A BP job representative is responsible for communicating the requirements of this policy to the contractor. The BP job representative functions as the work crew representative for purposes of completing the ATW form and executing the Hazardous Energy isolation procedure (if required).

Contractor Representative — A contractor representative is responsible for ensuring the contractor's employees understand and follow the requirements of this policy.

References: