

KENTFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Developed by

Jim Galli, Battalion Chief

Approved by

Paul Smith, Fire Chief

Fire Protection Standard 516B

Statement of Responsibility

Date: 1-1-04

Revision: _____

Page: 1 of 2

This standard has been developed pursuant to Article 29 of the Uniform Fire Code as adopted by ordinance by the Kentfield Fire Protection District. It is required that this standard be signed by the business owner or business management and conspicuously posted in the designated cutting or welding areas of repair garages as permitted by the Fire Loss Management Division to conduct such operations.

Responsibility for Cutting and Welding

General:

Although the cutter or welder has the best opportunity to avoid fire or injury by proper control of the equipment he/she is using, there are many circumstances where fires, explosions, or severe injuries would be inevitable if the oxy-fuel gas torch or the electrode were to be used. Such circumstances can arise where the cutter or welder may not be aware of:

1. The proximity or the flammable nature of nearby combustible solids, liquids or dusts;
2. The presence or development of possibly explosive mixtures of flammable gases or vapors and air or;
3. The presence or nature of an oxygen enriched atmosphere in the location where the work is to be performed.

The precautions taken by a cutter or welder will often be governed by the desire of others for speed or economy in his work or by the failure of management to emphasize the possible extent or seriousness of a fire in the work area. Therefore, all three: the cutter or welder, his supervisor, and management, shall bear full responsibility for the safe use of cutting or welding equipment. Specific responsibilities of each are as follows:

Management shall recognize its responsibility for the safe usage of cutting and welding equipment on its property, and:

1. Based on fire potentials, provide designated areas for cutting and welding.
2. Designate an individual responsible for authorizing cutting and welding operations. The individual shall be aware of the fire hazards involved and the provisions and conditions of the required fire district permit.
3. Insist that only approved apparatus, such as torches, manifolds, regulators or pressure reducing valves and acetylene generators are used.
4. Insist that cutters or welders and their supervisors be suitable trained in the safe operation of their equipment, the safe use of the process and emergency procedures in

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the event of a fire.

5. Advise all cutters or welders and their supervisors about flammable materials or hazardous conditions of which they may not be aware.

Supervisor shall be responsible for the safe handling of the cutting or welding equipment and for the safe use of the cutting or welding process, and;

1. Determine the combustible materials and hazardous areas present or likely to be present in the work location.
2. Protect combustibles from ignition by:
 - a. Maintaining work within the designated area.
 - b. Having combustibles moved to a safe distance from the work or have them properly shielded against ignition.
 - c. Seeing that operations do not expose combustibles and hazardous atmosphere to ignition.
3. The supervisor shall determine that fire protection and extinguishing equipment are properly located on site.

Cutter or Welder shall handle the equipment safely and use it so as not to endanger lives and property as follows:

1. Have approval by the supervisor before starting to cut or weld.
2. Cut or weld only in the designated area where conditions are safe.
3. Continue to cut or weld only so long as conditions are unchanged from those under which approval was granted.

Owner/Management Signature

Date