

# What's the Risk?

## Fires Started By "Hot Work"



### THE ISSUE

Performing "hot work" such as welding, cutting, grinding, drilling, soldering, or brazing, near flammable material could cause a fire. While it may be necessary to repair an area of a building with hot work, extra care must be taken when doing so.



### WHAT'S THE RISK?

Sparks or open flames caused by hot work near combustible materials in walls, floors and ceilings may be ignited without a worker's knowledge.



### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The following steps should be taken to avoid the risk of fire:

- In an industrial or commercial setting, obtain a permit before performing hot work. The Permit Authorizing Individual (PAI) should inspect the job site before, during, and after the job.
- Remove flammable and combustible materials from the work area if possible.
- Cover flammable material with fire-resistant blankets if the material is unable to be moved.
- Clean grease, oil, or other combustible liquids from the area prior to hot work.
- Post a trained fire watch person within the work area while hot work is taking place and for a minimum of 30 minutes after the work has stopped.

