

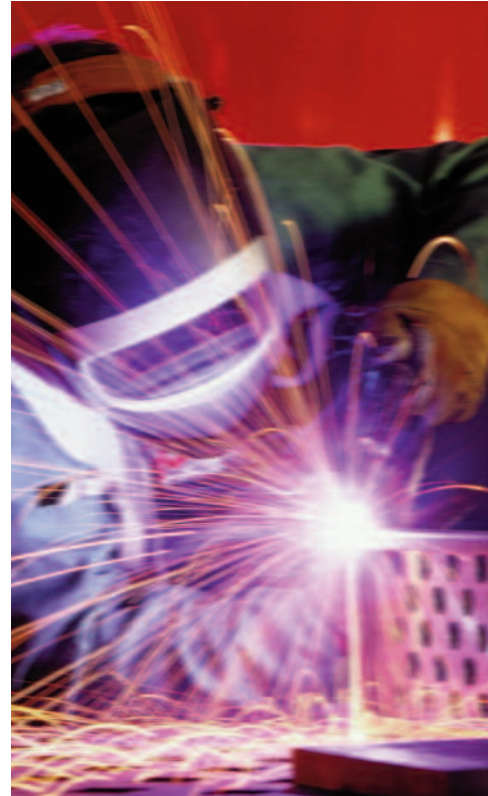
## WELDING & CUTTING SAFETY

An out-of-control fire has no mercy. This was brought home on Monday, October 27, 2008 in Sequatchie County, Tennessee, when the Highway Department's main office and shop burned to the ground. Only the charred back wall of the building was left standing.

The real tragedy is that the Highway Department employee who was welding in the garage shop on one of the highway tractors was badly burned.

The following safety measures should be taken during welding and cutting operations:

- Work in pairs, with one person designated to be on "Fire Watch."
- Wear appropriate PPE: eye protection, fire resistant gloves and clothing (full sleeves, no pockets, button collar, leave shirt outside pants, and no cuffs on pants).
- Ventilation should be provided whenever welding, cutting or heating is being performed.
- Arc welding and cutting operations must be shielded by noncombustible or flame-proof shields to protect employees from direct rays.
- A suitable fire extinguisher should be readily available during welding, cutting or heating operations.
- Always clear the area below cutting or welding operations so hot slag will not drop on hoses, cables or employees.
- When electrode holders are left unattended, electrodes should be removed and the holder should be placed or protected so it can not make electrical contact. All arc welding and cutting cables should be completely insulated.
- Always wear required eye protection to guard against slag while chipping, grinding and dressing of welds. Always wear a welding hood to protect eyes from flash burn.
- Fuel gas and oxygen hoses must be easily distinguishable and not interchangeable. Inspect hoses daily and repair or replace if defective.





*Remains of the Sequatchie County Highway Department office and shop after a devastating fire.*

- Always store cylinders properly on a welding cart or secured to a wall with a chain.
- All tank valves should be closed when equipment is not in use.
- Do not cut or weld around gasoline tanks or attempt to weld or cut a container that has stored a flammable or combustible liquid.
- Welding or cutting equipment should not be operated except by properly trained personnel.

## **CONTACT**

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