

## WELDING SAFETY

Welding is often performed in collision repair shops. When you weld, there are a number of safety precautions that need to be observed.

### WELDING AND TORCH CUTTING SAFETY

- Make sure there are no combustible materials (e.g., oily rags, paper) within **fifteen feet** of welding. Cover anything that can burn but cannot be moved with welding blankets. Have a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never weld when standing on metal scaffolding.
- Position the work to minimize exposure to welding fumes. Increase ventilation when welding on galvanized metals.
- Use a welding helmet or goggles with shaded lenses to protect against light radiation.
- Make sure bystanders are not at risk from the welding flash.
- Never weld in the paint area.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and leather shoes or boots.
- At the end of each job, check the area for smoldering ambers.

### COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER HANDLING

- Mark or tag empty cylinders.
- Protect compressed gas cylinders from being dropped, bumped, or hit.
- Move cylinders by rolling them along their bottom edges or secured upright on a cart. Do not handle cylinders by their valves, drag, or tip them on their sides.
- Only use regulators and pressure gauges approved for use with each type of gas. Make sure they are not damaged; never repair or alter regulators.
- Never lubricate regulators and pressure gauges.
- If a cylinder develops a leak, carefully move it outdoors and let it bleed off. Tag the leaky cylinder so the gas supplier knows it is faulty. If the regulator is damaged, do not move the cylinder – notify your manager.
- Before welding, make sure you have enough gas in the cylinders to complete the job.
- When finished, shut down the system completely, bleeding the pressure out of the lines.
- Always use flashback arrestors on acetylene cylinders.



## COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER STORAGE

- Store cylinders secured, upright, and with their valve caps in place.
- Chain cylinders on a cart.
- Ensure that all valves are completely closed.
- Store cylinders away from traffic and electrical panels.
- Always store oxygen cylinders at least 20 feet from acetylene cylinders and any other combustible materials (e.g., oil, gasoline, propane). When this is not feasible, separate oxygen cylinders from flammable and combustible materials with a noncombustible wall at least 5 feet high. Oxygen and acetylene may be stored together only on an oxyacetylene cart if gauges are attached.

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