

Hot Work

One of the leading causes of fires and explosions in the world is hot work. Hot work activities, such as welding, cutting, and brazing, occur almost daily on our campuses, and this increases the chance for fires. Hot work was the cause of an annual average of 4,630 fires, resulting in 15 deaths, 198 injuries, and \$355 million in property damage each year. Northwestern's

[Welding, Cutting, and Brazing Program](#) establishes safe working procedures and a hot work permit system to identify and control ignition sources during hot work activities. The Hot Work Permit system outlined in the program is intended to ensure:

- Individuals performing hot work activities are aware of the hazards associated with those activities (e.g., toxic fumes, intense heat, ultraviolet/infrared light, sparks),
- Sources of ignition are identified and removed, and
- Protective control measures are in place prior to initiating any hot work activities.

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