HOTWORK PERMIT PROGRAM

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations 527 CMR 39 and OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252 a Hot Work Permit is required for the following activities: brazing, cutting, heating, soldering, welding or similar type work. The intent of this program is to prevent injury and loss of property from fire when using heat-producing equipment such as soldering tools, heat guns, oxy-fuel gas and electric arc cutting and welding equipment.

Hot Work will be permitted in approved areas and will be issued to both Westfield State University staff and contractors by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety or a designee of that office. On occasion, with the approval of the office of EH&S, a blanket permit can be granted for a long duration project and ongoing work. A blanket permit can also be considered for a series of small jobs related to one project on the campus.

PERMIT:

1. The area(s) shall be inspected by EH&S or a qualified Westfield State employee.
2. They type of hot work must be approved for the project being performed.
3. Containers/pipes must be properly cleaned/ purged, and then inspected.
4. All flammable and combustible materials must be removed from the Hot Work area.
5. Floor and wall openings (within 35”) shall be covered or sealed to prevent possible spread of fire.
6. Fire detection and suppression equipment shall remain operational at all times, unless otherwise protected or approved by the Department of Public Safety or the Office of EH&S.
7. Fire extinguishers of proper size and type shall be located within 25 ft. of Hot Work area.
8. Hot Work equipment such as hoses, leads, gas cylinders, and torches shall be properly maintained and secured as not to prevent loss or exposure.
9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required and shall be worn. Examples of the PPE include but are not limited to: clothing, face shields, goggles, gloves, and head and foot protection.

10. EH&S safety hazards such as asbestos, stored chemicals, solvents and other hazards including electrical, fire, heat, and ventilation should be evaluated prior to HOT WORK.

11. A fire watch (not less than ½ hour shall be performed for each HOT WORK permit issued.

12. Bags for smoke detectors shall be supplied and installed by the contractor when necessary.

13. Permanent or portable curtains and screens must be used if persons are or could be exposed to the direct or reflected radiation.

14. Exhaust ventilation has been provided or has been determined to be sufficient.

Fire Watcher(s):

The university reserves the right to require a separate person to perform a fire watch.

1. The fire-watcher shall have the proper size and type of a fully charged fire extinguisher within 25 ft.

2. The fire-watcher shall be properly trained in the proper use and limitations of the fire extinguisher.

3. The fire-watcher shall be familiar with the proper procedures for activating a fire alarm and for the notification to the Department of Public Safety/Westfield Fire Department.

4. The fire watch shall be maintained for at least 1 hour after the Hot Work is completed. (1/2 hour if approved by the Office of EH&S)

Gas Storage and Transportation:

1. All cylinders must be secured at all times by either an approved chain strap.

2. All cylinders must have a cap or a regulator in place at all times.

3. All cylinders must be stored, transported and used in an upright position.

4. All cylinders and attached equipment must be free of damage and leaks

5. All cylinders must be clearly labeled

In the event of an emergency contact the Office of Public Safety at 413 572-5262
If any questions, please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at 413 572-5209

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