



West Bay Sanitary District Code of Safe Practice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Questions or comments regarding this
Code of Safe Practice should be directed
to the Regulatory Compliance Coordinator.

Welder, Oxygen and Acetylene

SAFETY IN CUTTING

- Pre-inspect equipment including rental equipment.
- Review and understand the manufacturer's operator's manual for this equipment.
- Never use a cutting torch where sparks will be a hazard.
- If cutting is to be over a wooden floor, sweep the floor clean and wet it down before starting the cut. Provide a bucket or pan containing water or sand to catch the dripping slag.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby whenever any cutting is done.
- Whenever possible, perform cutting in wide-open areas, so sparks and slag will not become lodged in confined crevices or cracks.
- If cutting is to be done near flammable materials and the flammable materials cannot be moved, suitable fire resisting guards or partition screens must be used.
- In areas where a dirty or gassy atmosphere exists, extra precautions should be taken to avoid explosions resulting from electric sparks or open fire during the cutting or welding operation.
- Eye protection is required.
- Coveralls or long sleeved shirts and leather gloves are required.
- Respiratory protection may be required. Do not carry lighters in your pockets.
- Do not cut in unventilated areas.

SAFETY IN OXYGEN/ACETYLENE WELDING CYLINDERS

- Never move a cylinder by dragging, sliding or rolling it on its side. Keep protective cap in place when not in use. Avoid striking it against an object that might create a spark.

- Never permit grease or oil to come in contact with cylinder valves. Although oxygen is in itself non-flammable, if it is allowed to come into contact with any flammable material, it will quickly aid combustion and the burning process.
- Blow out cylinder valves before attaching the regulator.
- Release regulator screw before opening valve.
- Open cylinder valve slowly.
- Cylinders shall not be exposed to open fires or sparks from a torch.
- Cylinders shall not be allowed to lie in a horizontal position nor should the valve protector cap be used for lifting cylinders.
- Acetylene valve should not be opened more than one-quarter turn.
- Do not attempt to repair cylinder valves. If the valves do not function properly, or if they leak, discontinue use and notify the supplier.
- Oxygen shall never be used as a substitute for compressed air to operated pneumatic tools, blow out pipelines, or dust clothing because a serious accident may result.
- Cylinders shall be properly secured to prevent them from being knocked over.
- When operating cylinder valves, always stand to one side and away from the regulator. A defect in the regulator may cause the gas to flow through, shattering the glass.
- Oxygen and acetylene cylinders must be stored at least 20 feet (6 meters) apart, or separated by a two hour-fire rated wall or partition.
- Cylinders shall not be transported with gauges attached.
- Release pressure on regulators when welding or cutting is completed.
- Do not compress acetylene in a free state if pressure is higher than 15 psi.
- Light the acetylene gas before opening the oxygen valve on the torch.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Protection Area	PPE Required
Eye	Safety glasses or goggles meeting the ANSI Z87.1 Standard. Welding goggles or helmet shall have appropriate shade tinting for the type of welding being performed.
Face	Welding goggles or helmet with proper shade tinting where appropriate.
Hand	Leather work gloves.
Head	Hardhat when appropriate.
Foot	Leather steel toe or composite toe safety shoes or boots.
Body	Non-combustible coveralls appropriate for welding, sparks and slag.
Respiratory	Welding must be performed in well-ventilated areas. Air-purifying respirator with HEPA filter and appropriate chemical cartridge when appropriate.
Hearing	Wear earplugs or earmuffs as necessary.