

# CUTTING WITH OXYGEN- ACETYLENE

*Cutting with an Oxygen-Acetylene torch can be a very effective, efficient and cost-friendly way of cutting and shaping metals and similar materials. However, the process includes some significant safety hazards, and the operator should be aware of what they are and how to keep them controlled.*

## Safety Tips When Using Oxygen-Acetylene Torches

### Before cutting:

- Make sure you are wearing the proper Personal Protective Equipment. Recommendations include tinted goggles and face shields over the top of safety glasses, long sleeves and pants, leather (steel-toed) work boots and heavy-duty (heat-resistant) gloves.
  - Verify there are spark-arrestors in line to prevent the flame from burning back into the lines and getting to the canisters.
  - Make sure the canisters are chained to a sturdy object or cart.
  - Make sure there are changing caps installed on the tank valves if not in use.
  - Clean debris and oil from cutting surfaces to prevent popping of the torch.
  - Make sure there is good ventilation in the area to prevent over exposure to fumes or smoke.
  - Identify any flammable materials and keep them away from the cutting area.
- During and after cutting:
- Keep feet clear of falling pieces or molten metal from the work piece.

- Keep cutting hoses away from walking / working surfaces to prevent trip hazards.
- Limit gas flow to keep the cutting torch concentrated and performing at the optimum ability.
- Keep the torch located 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches from the work piece to maximize the cutting ability; popping and excessive melting may occur otherwise.
- Always wear heavy-duty gloves and verify the work piece is cool enough to handle to prevent burns.
- Never leave a hot work piece unattended.
- When complete, always shut off gas to hoses, inspect the condition of the equipment and put tools / supplies back in their designated locations.

