

NOT ALL SPARKS ARE THE SAME

HOT WORK ACTIVITIES:

- When performing “hot work,” the conditions are not always the same. The sparks and spatter commonly associated with grinding and stick welding are very noticeable, and put on quite a display.
- The real danger, however, comes from molten metal from cutting or burning operations. While not as spectacular as the sparks display put on by grinding or welding, the molten metal produced with a torch can easily reach *thousands of degrees*, and “puddle” on a surface.

THOSE PRETTY SPARKS CAN HURT!

Spark Protection – Light Duty

When the sparks fly from a grinding or welding application, you can encounter a working temperature of up to **800** degrees. Blankets are suitable for draping equipment or for use as a vertical shield from sparks and minimal spatter, when draped over equipment or flooring surfaces. These work best when used on an angle incline of at least 15 degrees. They can also provide an excellent vertical screen to protect equipment and personnel from the spray of sparks, especially when used in multiple layers.

MOLTEN METAL - SLAG

Molten Metal Protection – Heavy Duty

- Heavy duty cutting and gouging activities require the maximum protection available. High temperature blanket products need to be used for these applications.
- With a working temperature rating of **3,000** degrees, these products are the best choice when molten metal slag generation is a problem. These should also be used in multiple layers for maximum safety and protection.

MORE GOOD IDEAS

- *Remember to ensure all combustibles are removed from an area of 35 feet in diameter surrounding the hot work area, including areas above and below.*
- *If you cannot remove the combustibles, ensure they are properly covered with fire retardant blankets.*

Ensure you point out the location of combustibles and their protection to whoever is writing your Hot Work Permit!