

## WELDING

### WHAT THIS SHEET APPLIES TO

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Technicians using any welding device.

### RISKS INCLUDE

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Eye injuries, electrical shock, fire, burns, and respiratory problems.

### GUIDELINES, RULES, & PROCEDURES

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- All non-licensed persons intending to weld should be certified by attending Welding and Fire Extinguisher Training sessions offered by the Department of Performance, Theater, and Dance. Licensed professionals teach both of these sessions.
- At least two people are required: one to operate the welding equipment and the other to serve as a Fire Watch.
- Prior to welding, inspect all equipment, protective clothing and hoods for damage.
- The person responsible for welding must prepare work area in the following way:
  1. Thoroughly sweep and vacuum. (This is especially important in the Scene Shop). Mop if possible.
  2. Lay down masonite or other approved protective floor covering where welding is to take place.
  3. Set up approved welding screens and warn others working nearby of potential danger to their vision.
  4. Have the Fire Watch ready with appropriate fire extinguisher.
  5. Make sure the area is well ventilated. In the Scene Shop, turn on the exhaust fan (use high setting).
  6. Make sure there is no water near welding operations.
- A Fire Watch must actively look for spark fires during welding operations and must remain in the space, looking for fire, at least 1 hour after welding has ceased.
- Welder and Fire Watch should know where the emergency electrical cut-off switch is and how to use it.
- Welder and Fire Watch must be aware of the first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, and fire alarm pull box locations.
- See also the *Safety Information Sheets* entitled “Clothing & Personal Protection” and “Fire Protection & Fire Safety.”

### FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING

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Rowe, Richard and Larry Jeffus, *The Essential Welder: Gas Metal Arc Welding*, Albany, NY: Cengage Delmar Learning, 2000.