



# University of New Haven

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Policy Title:**

**Hot Work Policy and  
Procedure**

<i>Policy No.:</i>	<i>8103</i>
<i>Effective Date:</i>	<i>May 2011</i>
<i>Last Revision:</i>	<b>January 2025</b>

**Responsible Office:** Facilities Department

**Responsible Official:** Associate Vice President of Facilities

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## **1.0 Policy Statement**

The University of New Haven has developed a hot work policy and procedure in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations.

### **1.1 Purpose**

The University of New Haven has a duty to its employees and students to provide a safe environment and workplace. Because hot work conducted on the premises can potentially affect the safety of University of New Haven employees, students and property, the University of New Haven is dedicated to performing this work in a safe manner. This document is intended to provide safety instructions to personnel who conduct hot work at the university including all contractor hot work.

### **1.2 Scope**

This program covers all University of New Haven employees, contractors and associated subcontractors performing hot work in university owned, leased or subsidiary facilities.

### **1.3 Review**

The Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services will review and update this policy whenever necessary or at least annually.

All the elements of this policy are considered University of New Haven policy and may be enforced as such. The failure on the part of the employees to follow the policies and safety requirements of this plan may result in disciplinary action. If a contractor is found to be in non-compliance with the University of New Haven's hot work policy, current and future work may be jeopardized.

## **2.0 Regulations**

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), requires within their regulations, as found in 1910.252 subpart Q, that all welding, cutting, and brazing follow specific procedures to ensure the safety of personnel and property.

## **3.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

The following individuals have these responsibilities with regard to this policy.

### **3.1 Associate Vice President of Facilities**

- Serves as the program administrator and has overall responsibility for facility department staff and contractor compliance with the Hot Work Policy and Procedure.

### **3.2 Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services**

- Support and assist the Director of Facilities on the full implementation of this safety program.
- Update the program as necessary to protect employee and student safety.
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the program.
- Where applicable the above-listed duties may be assigned to a properly trained and knowledgeable designee.

### **3.3 Director of Facilities**

- Authorize all University hot work permits.
- Assure that facilities staff as well as contractors are appropriately displaying hot work permits as outlined within this policy.
- Assure that a log of hot work permits is maintained.
- Assure that a firewatch is available for all work outlined in section 7.0.
- Where applicable the above-listed duties may be assigned to a properly trained and knowledgeable designee.

### **3.4 University of New Haven Police Department and University Fire Marshal**

- Notify the Facility Department of all fire system impairments and when systems are back on-line.
- Notify the Allingtown Fire Department of all fire system impairments and when systems are back on-line.
- Notify the Office of the Vice President of Public Safety and Administrative Services of all fire system impairments and when systems are back on-line.

### **3.5 Contractors**

- For scheduled hot work provide the Facilities Department with a complete hot work permit.
- If needed supply appropriate fire watch personnel.
- Adhere to all University policies and procedures.

## **4.0 Definitions**

*Competent Person* - Those at the University of New Haven that have been trained in the proper use of a flammable gas meter and who understand the concepts of lower and upper explosive limits.

*Designated Hot Work Area* - An area that due to its design, construction or modification has been deemed safe to conduct hot work without the use of special permits or conditions of work. Areas are

designed to control fire hazards and minimize risks by permanently free of flammable and combustible materials or being specially prepared to safely manage hot work activities.

- Designated hot work areas not needing a hot work permit have been identified as the building and grounds shop and the manufacturing laboratory. All special precautions outlined in section 4.3 of this policy are required to be followed in these designated hot work areas. All other areas where hot work is performed must obtain a hot work permit before work begins.

**Hot work** – work entailing the use of open flame or spark producing apparatus such as, but not limited to, welding, cutting, burning, grinding, drilling jack-hammering and related heat producing jobs which could ignite combustible and flammable materials.

**Incipient Fire** – A small, contained fire, which is in the initial or beginning stage, and not of structural nature, and can be generally extinguished by using no more than two portable fire extinguishers.

**Qualified Person** – A person who has been trained in the use of a particular piece of equipment, to the degree that they are competent in the use of such equipment.

**Responsible Parties** – A member of the University of New Haven who, through experience and training, is qualified to complete and approve Hot Work Permits.

- At the University of New Haven responsible parties have been identified as the Director of Facilities, Manager of Facilities Operations, Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services, and University Fire Marshal.

## **5.0 Risk Identification**

### **5.1 Responsible Person**

The responsible person authorizing the work must ensure all materials that will be heated during the hot work will withstand the heat generated by the hot work (e.g. materials adjacent to, connected to, behind and inside the materials being worked on).

### **5.2 General Precautions**

Where practical, all combustibles (i.e., wood, paper, flammable and combustible liquids) will be relocated at least 35 feet from the work area.

#### **5.2.1 Covering of Fixed Combustibles**

Where relocation is impractical, combustibles will be protected with flame proof covers or otherwise shielded with flameproof material (fire-resistant blankets, shields, or curtains). If combustibles cannot be relocated or covered, hot work shall require a dedicated fire watch.

### **5.3 Special Precautions**

Special precautions for cutting and welding shall be as follows:

- Whenever there are holes, openings, or cracks in floors, walls, etc., adequate precautions shall be taken to prevent combustible materials on the other side from igniting.
- Suitable fire extinguishing equipment shall be maintained in a state of readiness for instant use.
- Gas welding/cutting: Prior to use the welder will perform a visual inspection of the welding equipment. The welder shall:
  - Ensure that compressed gas cylinders are secured in an upright position;
  - Inspect full length of hoses. Any hose with evidence of wear or damage will be removed from service;
  - Inspect regulators and their associated gauges; ensure regulators are in proper working order, and gauges are functioning and easily visible; and ensure defective regulators or damaged gauges or site glass are removed from service;
  - Ensure that cylinders are kept far enough away from the actual welding or cutting to prevent hot slag, sparks, or flame from reaching them;
  - Ensure that torches shall be inspected for leading shutoff valves, hose couplings and tip connections and defective torches are removed from service; and
  - Ensure that oxygen cylinders and fittings are kept free of oil and grease substances and are not handled with oily hands or gloves.

### **5.4 Testing for Flammable Vapors**

At the University of New Haven, there is the potential for flammable vapors to be present in areas where hot work is to be completed. In these areas where flammable vapors may be present, it is required that a combustible gas test be performed to determine the flammability range of the container or area in which the hot work is to be performed. The University utilizes an Industrial Scientific M-40 four gas meter to perform flammable vapor testing.

All in-house hot work requiring a test for flammable vapors shall only be completed by a competent person who is trained in the use of the measuring device and who understands the concepts of Lower and Upper Explosive Limits. Such a test shall be conducted immediately before the hot work begins and the results will be recorded on the Hot Work Permit.

At the University of New Haven, the competent person(s) to conduct these flammable vapor tests has been identified as either the Director of Facilities, Manager of Facilities Operations and/or Custodial Services Manager. Contractors shall be responsible for providing a qualified person to conduct flammable vapor screening in the areas outlined in 5.4.1. All contractor flammable vapor screenings shall be overseen by the University of New Haven and contractors are required to notify the Facilities office of their screening findings before the hot work permit can be obtained. Gas levels must also be noted on the hot work permit at the work site.

#### ***5.4.1 Flammable Vapor Work Areas***

Areas at the University of New Haven that must be checked for flammable vapors before hot work commences are identified as but not limited to:

- All identified confined spaces;
- Gas meter rooms;
- Chemical storage rooms; and
- Laboratories with piped gas systems and where flammable and combustible chemicals are stored.

### **5.5 Lower Explosive Limit**

Hot work will not be performed if the concentration exceeds ten (10) percent of the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL).

#### ***5.5.1 Detection of the Lower Explosive Limit***

If the Level of Flammable/Combustible vapors or gases is detected and does not exceed ten (10) percent of the LEL, the hot work must not start until the manager responsible for the work:

- Understands the source of the flammable vapor which is present; and
- Knows the concentration will not increase while the work is being done.

#### ***5.5.2 Verification of Results***

In areas that may contain flammable vapors, the responsible person(s) cannot sign the Hot Work Permit until an initial test has been conducted by a qualified person and the results are within acceptable limits. In addition to the initial test, a flammable vapor test must be conducted immediately prior to commencing work.



## **6.0 Hot Work Permits**

### **6.1 Obtaining a Hot Work Permit**

Hot work may only begin upon the issue of a Hot Work Permit, available from the Manager of Facilities Operations. Each hot work permit obtained at the University of New Haven must be signed by either the Director of Facilities, Manager of Facilities Operations or designee and must also be signed by the Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services or designee.

Contractors needing to conduct hot work must notify the Facilities Department at least 24 hours in advance of proposed hot work. It will be the requirement of this policy that contractors assist in supplying all work-related information to complete the hot work permit. To contact the Director of Facilities please contact 203.932.7087. Hot work completed by University of New Haven staff must also follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

The hot work permit can be found in appendix A of this document.

In specific instances, the University of New Haven's insurance provider may need to be notified of hot work being performed.

### **6.2 Completing the Hot Work Permit**

The contractor or University employee requesting the hot work permit must complete section A – General Information, section B – Tools Required and section C – Equipment Preparation and Safety List before sending the permit to the Facilities department.

The Manager of Facilities Operations will review permit for accuracy and once approved make a copy to hang on the bulletin board in the facilities office before the permit will be signed and brought to the Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services or designee for approval and signature.

Once the permit has been signed by Facilities and the Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services the completed hot work permit will be brought to the University Police Department and logged into the hot work permit log book and given a permit number. The completed hot work permit will be picked up by contractor or University employee completing the hot work and will be posted in work where hot work is being performed.

### **6.3 Hot Work Permit Log**

The University of New Haven shall keep a hot work permit log inclusive of date, time, building in which hot work is being completed, contractor performing hot work, fire watch contact information (if required) and hot work completion time at the university police dispatch location.

### **6.4 Displaying the Hot Work Permit**

The Hot Work Permit must be displayed in a visible location any time hot work is in progress. Failure to display this permit will result in an immediate stoppage of work. The permit is valid only for the time period displayed on the Hot Work Permit.

### **6.5 Hot Work Permit Information**

Each hot work permit issued by the University shall contain at least the following information:

- Contact information of person completing the hot work;
- The effective time and date and defined work area;
- The hours during which the source of ignition may be used;
- Location of work;
- Description of work;
- Tools required to complete work;
- Completion of the equipment and work area preparation section of the permit;
- Atmosphere evaluation readings (if required);
- Signatures from either the Director of Facilities, Manager of Facilities Operations or designee and also the Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services or designee;
- Notification shall be given to the University Police dispatcher of all hot work;
- The name and signature of the fire watch if one is determined to be needed;
- Any special precautions or limitations to be observed before, during or after the use of the source of ignition, including the need for fire watch.

### **6.6 Termination of Hot Work Permit**

The hot work permit shall be terminated under the following conditions:

- When circumstances would make the continued use of the source of ignition hazardous; Any time the conditions of its issuance change; and/or
- At the end of each shift (unless otherwise noted).

### **6.7 Completion of Work**

Upon completion of hot work and final fire check, return the used permit to the facilities department.

The permit will be kept on file for a minimum of 6 months.

## **7.0 Fire Watch**

A fire watch shall be required for all cutting and welding operations in locations where a fire may develop, such as in the following:

- Combustible material is located within 35 ft. of operation and cannot be removed or protected;
- Wall or floor openings are located within 35 ft. of operation (NOTE: Fire watch shall be in position to observe opposite side of the wall or floor.);
- Combustible materials may be ignited by conduction or radiation through a floor, wall, ceiling or roof.

### **7.1 Procedures for a Fire Watch**

A Fire watch shall:

- Have the only duty of patrolling the work area, adjacent rooms to the work area and above and below the work area and adjacent rooms;
- Have fire-extinguishing equipment readily available and be trained in its use;
- Be familiar with the procedures for reporting fire;
- Try to extinguish fire only in its incipient stage;
- Activate the fire alarm when necessary; and,
- Maintain the fire watch for at least one hour after completion of welding or cutting operations to detect and extinguish possible smoldering fires.

The fire watch inspection shall extend to floors above and below the work area, and above and below adjacent rooms. The fire watch shall sign the hot work permit one hour after work has ceased and will leave the permit hanging in place.

In many cases, loss occurs within one to four hours after the hot work is completed, which is why the university's insurance company requires the work area be monitored for an additional three hours. This can be done by assigning workers or security personnel to the area or even monitoring the area through video cameras. The contractor's fire watch will sign the permit one hour after the work has been completed ONLY if university building and grounds personnel have been assigned to perform the additional three hours of monitoring the work area. At the time where the university monitoring takes over, he/she will counter sign the fire watch permit.

Upon completion of the fire watch, part 2 of the hot work permit shall be signed and returned to the Manager of Facilities Operations where all copies of the permit shall be filed.

## **8.0 Personal Protective Equipment**

### **8.1 Eye Protection**

Persons in the welding workplace shall wear appropriate eye and face protection to protect against radiant energy and spatters. Such protection shall be in conformance with 29 CFR 1910.252(b) (2).

### **8.2 Respiratory Protection**

Welders shall be protected from fumes and gases by an appropriately engineered ventilation system. Where this is not possible, appropriate personal respiratory protection shall be used as prescribed by following 29 CFR 1910.134, OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard.

All contractors are required to follow their company respiratory protection policy. The university may require contractors to provide a copy of their respiratory protection policy for review and to be kept on-site until work has been completed under certain circumstances. University employees are required to follow the University of New Haven's Respiratory Protection Program.

### **8.3 Skin Protection**

Clothing shall be worn to protect the welder from sparks, radiation, and spatter. Such clothing shall be flame resistant and free from oil or grease. Synthetic fabrics that can melt or burn shall not be used.

Protective clothing shall consist of:

- Flame resistant gauntlet gloves;
- Apron or leggings;
- Cape or shoulder cover when welding or cutting overhead;
- Fire resistant skull cap;
- Fire resistant ear plugs when sparks may enter the ears;
- Clothing shall not have cuffs, pockets, or rolled up sleeves. Sleeves and collars shall be buttoned; trousers shall overlap shoes; and
- Flammable or combustible materials, e.g. matches, shall not be carried on a person where sparks or spatter may come in contact.

## **9.0 Emergency Hot Work**

Emergency hot work may be performed only after the Manager of Facilities Operations or designee has

been notified and the University Fire Marshal has been made aware of the work.

The University understands that under extreme circumstances it may be necessary to perform hot work in emergency situations. The procedure for emergency hot work is to notify the Manager of Facilities Operations or designee and he/she shall then notify the University Fire Marshal that the work has been approved.

Contractors completing emergency hot work are required to follow all other aspects of this policy.

### **10.0 Audit of Hot Work Program**

The hot work program at the University of New Haven shall be audited on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with this policy. Periodic audits shall be performed under the direction of the Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services.

In the event a contractor is found to be in non-compliance with the University of New Haven's hot work policy, the contractor's current and future work at the University may be jeopardized.