

AmTrust Property Zone

How and Why to Develop a Hot Work Permit Program

Some businesses have projects that require open flames, heat or spark production. Known as “hot work,” these activities carry significant fire risk, but businesses can minimize this risk through the development and implementation of a hot work permit program.

Why Are Hot Work Permit Programs Needed?

Hot work contributes to 4,630 structure fires, \$355 million in direct property damage and 15 civilian deaths every year. However, these fires are preventable.

Hot work can sometimes be performed in unsafe conditions due to inadequate training or lack of proper procedures. Hot work permit programs are designed to prevent fires through proper authorization and supervision of temporary hot work operations. A well-implemented hot work permit program will assist businesses in preventing fires, property damage, injury and death.

When Are Hot Work Permit Programs Needed?

Hot work permit programs should be used by any business that needs hot work done.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), hot work residential fires usually occur in bathrooms and kitchens, while commercial incidents usually occur in exterior roof surfaces or processing and manufacturing areas.

- 36% are caused by welding torches
- 22% are caused by cutting torches
- 17% are caused by soldering equipment
- 11% are caused by burners
- 13% are caused by heat treating equipment
- 1% are caused by other equipment

How Businesses Can Implement a Hot Work Permit Program

Before your company can implement a hot work permit program, it's important to be familiar with the relevant regulations and safety issues.

- Review NFPA 51B: Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work. www.nfpa.org/51B
- Take the NFPA's Hot Work Safety Certificate Online Training. This course provides information on relevant regulations as well as the risks and safety issues involved in hot work and the requirements for a hot work permit program.

For additional information and resources on this topic and other safety and risk management subjects be sure to visit the Loss Control section on our website:

www.amtrustfinancial.com/loss-control

Hot Work Certificate Requirements

- Boston has an ordinance that requires individuals involved in hot work to obtain a hot work safety certificate
- As of 2018, Massachusetts also has a law requiring a hot work safety certificate
- More cities and states may have laws to require hot work safety certificates, or compliance with NFPA 51B, or locally adopted rules

Using a Hot Work Permit Form

A hot work permit program includes a form that must be filled out and signed by the appropriate parties before any hot work can begin. The form should include the following:

- The date
- The start time
- The location within the property
- The name and signature of the person who will be doing the hot work
- The signature of the person who has checked the project for safety and is authorizing the hot work
- A checklist of key safety requirements for the area around the hot work, the hot work activities, and the hot work fire watch and fire monitoring

AmTrust provides a hot work permit form, which can be found at [Hot Work Permit Program](#). A permit is good for only one day ensuring that safety requirements are met every day, for every project, and that workers do not become careless regarding safety requirements.

Sources

<https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=51B>

<https://www.nfpa.org/Training-and-Events/By-topic/Hot-Work>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Images/Infographics/HotWorkInfographic19.png>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Code-or-topic-fact-sheets/HotWorkFactSheet.pdf>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Training/Hot-work/HotWorkPermit.ashx>

<https://catalog.nfpa.org/Hot-Work-Safety-Certificate-Online-Training-P18356.aspx?icid=A292>



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