

# Welding Hazards

## Common Welding Hazards...

- ◆ burns
- ◆ electrical shock and burns
- ◆ eye injury from looking at the arc without eye protection
- ◆ lung irritation or poisoning from toxic gases or fumes from the welding operation

## To Protect Yourself—and Others—From Hazards...

- ◆ No matter how small the job, wear all the protective clothing required for welding.
- ◆ Inspect all equipment and fuel cylinders used before beginning a job.
- ◆ Keep extinguishers or other firefighting equipment at hand during welding.
- ◆ Shield the welding area to prevent injury to the eyes of other workers.
- ◆ Avoid welding drums or other containers that held flammable materials, unless those containers have been thoroughly cleaned.
- ◆ In electric arc welding, make sure the electrode stays clear of the workpiece.
- ◆ To avoid hazardous fumes and gases, remove rust inhibitors, paints, degreasers or other coatings from metals to be welded. And be sure to have an appropriate ventilation system when working in an enclosed area.
- ◆ Use a spark lighter, not a cigarette, a match or a cigarette lighter, to ignite flames.
- ◆ Keep oil and grease away from all oxygen valve connections, hoses and gauges.
- ◆ In oxyfuel gas welding in a confined space, keep the gas cylinders outside the area and fastened securely. Shut off gas supply when leaving for a break.
- ◆ Before leaving a job, make sure welded material has cooled, all hoses are depressurized and electrical power is shut off.

