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NEWS RELEASE

EPFD 'Hot Work' Safety Tips

Firefighters remind citizens to practice safety when using hot tools

EL PASO, Texas – In recent weeks, El Paso has seen an increase in fires accidentally started by hot work, any work that involves welding, soldering, and burning and melting while roofing, etc. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) reports that every year, over 4,000 structure fires are caused by hot work. Although all hot work involves inherent fire risks and hazards, the El Paso Fire Department and NFPA recommend these “best practices” when performing hot work.

- **Analyze the hazards.** Perform a hazard assessment that identifies the scope of the work, potential hazards and methods of hazard control.
- **Monitor the atmosphere.** Conduct effective gas monitoring in the work area using a properly-calibrated combustible gas detector prior to and during hot work activities. Do so even in areas where a flammable atmosphere is not anticipated.
- **Test the area.** In work areas where flammable liquids and gases are stored or handled, drain and/or purge all equipment and piping before hot work is conducted. When welding on or in the vicinity of storage tanks and other containers, properly test and continuously monitor all surrounding tanks and adjacent spaces for the presence of flammables. Eliminate those potential flammable sources.
- **Obtain written permits.** Ensure that qualified personnel familiar with the specific site hazards review and authorize all hot work and have obtained permits specifically identifying the work to be conducted and the required precautions.
- **Train thoroughly.** Give preference to contractors who are licensed, bonded and insured and who train personnel on hot work policies and procedures.
- **Supervise contractors.** Provide safety supervision for contractors conducting hot work. Inform contractors about site-specific hazards, including the presence of flammable materials.

For a list of these and other safety tips, please visit <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/fire-department/divisions/fire-prevention>.

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