



TARRANT COUNTY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76111

David Butler
INTERIM FIRE MARSHAL

2750 PREMIER STREET
PHONE: (817) 838-4660
FAX: (817) 831-2007

August 20, 2024

OUTDOOR WELDING GUIDELINES
DURING THE BAN ON OUTDOOR BURNING

1. Where welding must be performed in the field, the following mitigating efforts will be in force until the Ban on Outdoor Burning has expired.
2. All areas where welding, cutting or grinding operations are being performed will be free of vegetation for at least twenty-five (25) feet in all directions.
3. Surface around welding area will be wetted down.
4. Wind speeds must be no more than fifteen (15) miles per hour while performing welding, cutting or grinding operations outside of barriers or enclosures.
5. A dedicated fire watch person will attend each welder, cutter, grinder and any activity that causes a spark.
6. A minimum of one (1) water pressure fire extinguisher per fire watch person is required.
7. Each site will have cellular telephone communications for emergency response.
8. All welding, cutting and grinding operations may be performed in a total welding enclosure or "welding box" that is sufficiently high to control sparks and includes a fire retardant cover over the top. Wind speeds must not exceed 30 miles per hour while utilizing an enclosure.
 - a) Where welding (above ground and sub-surface) is required in an area where there is a potential for a hazardous atmosphere, barriers will be substituted for total enclosures (e.g. "wind walls") to prevent sparks from coming in contact with any combustible material.
 - b) The barriers will be installed to allow ventilation of the work area and ingress and egress to the work area for personnel safety.
 - c) Sub-surface or "bell hole" welding and grinding operations within approved excavations are allowed if all other mitigation efforts are included.
9. If an emergency exists where welding has to be performed, the Fire Marshal may issue a temporary exception to the order.

Should you have additional questions contact the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office at 817-838-4660 or email firemarshal@tarrantcountytexas.gov