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0909 Safety Guidance
PROPANE v:112016

Banner

Gas Torch

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using the Gas Torch

1. Propane gas is extremely flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. Equipment producing jets of flame can be hazardous if misused. Take care not to burn yourself or others.
3. Do not use a gas torch to strip paint; it is too hot and will burn the wood. The bottom layers of paint could contain lead, which produces poisonous fumes when burnt. Use a hot air gun.
4. Pay attention to what is caught in the flame; some substances may produce toxic fumes when burnt.
5. Do not try to use this gas torch to provide general space heating.
6. You must have adequate ventilation to disperse the exhaust fumes from the gas torch.
7. Keep non-essential people, especially children away from the work area. NEVER allow a child to use the equipment.
8. Wear your protective equipment especially eye protection and face mask.
9. Read and follow the safety labels attached to the equipment, they are there to warn of hazards.
10. Do not indulge in any horseplay or irresponsible behaviour while using or working near the gas torch.
11. Do not point the jet of flame at people or animals; you may cause serious burn injuries. The flame will burn flammable materials, crack glass and melt plastic if it comes into contact with them.
12. After use, the nozzle will be hot. Do not touch it or lay it down on flammable material.
13. A suitable fire extinguisher should be kept nearby while using the gas torch.
14. The heavy gas cylinder used by this equipment can be awkward to move. Take care not to cause an injury.
15. This equipment must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
16. This equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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TURNING OFF THE GAS TORCH

1. To turn off the gas torch for a short while, turn off the valve on the gas torch.
2. When you have finished work, turn off the gas torch completely, then close the valve on the cylinder.

CHANGING THE GAS CYLINDER

1. Do not smoke while changing the cylinder.
2. Turn the gas torch off and close the valve on the cylinder.
3. Make sure that there are no naked flames nearby.
4. Disconnect the regulator from the cylinder.
5. Remove the plastic protective plug from the valve on the new cylinder.
6. Check that the valve connection on the new cylinder is the same as the one on the old cylinder. If it is different, refit the old cylinder, and contact the hire company.
7. If the valve connections are the same fit the new cylinder.
8. Position the new cylinder to the side of the gas torch where it will be clear of the heat, but without straining the gas hose. Take care - the new cylinder will be heavier than the empty one.
9. If you suspect that the cylinder connection is not gas tight, do not try to light the gas torch. Check that the valve hand wheel is turned fully clockwise to the OFF position. Contact the hire company.
10. Ensure the valve is closed on the empty cylinder; re-fit the plastic protective plug, and then move the empty cylinder to a safe location.

USING THE GAS TORCH

1. Wear your protective equipment including facemask and goggles.
2. If your equipment is likely to produce toxic fumes, you must wear your facemask; keep others away from the fumes.
3. Do not point the flame at people. It will cause burns.
4. Do not direct the flame on to glass; it will crack. Some plastics will crack and splinter before melting.
5. Extinguish the flame when you stop work and lay your equipment down, even if it is only for a short while.
6. After use, the nozzle will be hot. Do not touch it or lay it down on flammable material.
7. Remember material you have worked on will remain hot for some time. Make sure no-one touches it.
8. Extinguish the flame before you put the equipment down in a safe place to cool before leaving it unattended.
9. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

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Before Starting Work...

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

You should wear the following items of personal protective equipment: Goggles;, Facemask; Wear safety boots when handling heavy cylinders; Gloves.

PROPANE GAS SAFETY

1. Users of propane must be prepared for emergency action in case of a serious accident occurring.
2. An accident is most likely to involve fire. However, propane can also cause harm through skin or eye contact, or inhalation.
3. Do not smoke while near to gas cylinders.
4. Keep propane cylinders upright at all times - whether in use, in store or being moved.
5. Propane gas cannot be seen but it has a strong smell.
6. Keep only the cylinder you are using with the equipment. Store any other cylinders safely, well away from your work area. They should not be kept or stored below ground level. Propane is heavier than air and will collect at the lower level if there is a leak.
7. Propane cylinders must not be used or stored inside a building, even when they appear to be empty. Keep valves on empty cylinders closed to prevent air getting into the cylinder and forming a combustible mixture.
8. Ensure all connections are fitted correctly, tighten threaded connections using a properly fitting spanner.
9. Do not tamper with connections or the regulator.
10. If you suspect that there is a gas leak, turn off the gas using the cylinder valve. Put out any naked lights or other sources of ignition. Move people away from the area.
11. Never look for a leak with a naked flame - this is always extremely dangerous. Brush soapy water on suspected leaks, if bubbles are produced, there is a leak.
12. Do not attempt to repair any suspected leaks. Contact the hire company immediately.
13. If the cylinder is leaking but there is no fire and closing the valve does not stop the leak, call the fire service, and evacuate the area.
14. If the escaping gas contacts the skin a cold burn may result. Irrigate the affected area with tepid water for 15 minutes. Apply a sterile dry dressing and treat as for a normal burn. Seek medical advice as soon as possible.
15. If propane has been inhaled, and the victim is unconscious, do not attempt rescue. Call the emergency services. If you have inhaled propane, seek medical attention immediately.
16. In some conditions, frost may form on a gas cylinder that is in use. This indicates that the cylinder is not big enough to, provide the flow of gas that you are using. Contact the hire company.
17. Do not try to warm the cylinder to remove the frost. Take care when you are handling a frosty cylinder as the cold can cause frost burns.
18. Handle cylinders carefully when you are moving them. Do not drop them off vehicles - get some help to lower them safely.

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this equipment where there is a fire risk from combustible materials, or flammable liquids and gases.
2. If you are burning weeds, use the torch only on green growth; torching an area that is dry and brown could start an uncontrollable fire.
3. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes that may be given off by certain substances when heated by this gas torch, do not use this equipment inside a building unless it is well ventilated.
4. This equipment should not be used inside a residential building that is currently occupied.
5. Make sure that your work area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
6. Protect other people from the danger. Warn others to keep away. Put up a temporary barrier.
7. A suitable fire extinguisher should be kept nearby while using the gas torch.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use a gas torch. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. You will need to wear an appropriate facemask when you are doing work that creates fumes.
3. You must wear goggles when you are working with this equipment.
4. You should wear safety boots when handling heavy cylinders.
5. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

GAS TORCH

1. Check your equipment, including the hose and regulator. If anything is found damaged, do not use it - contact the hire company.
2. Before starting, ensure all hose connections are tight.
3. Make sure you understand how the equipment works - before you light the gas torch, you must know how to turn it off.

LIGHTING THE GAS TORCH

1. Ensure that the gas control valve on the gas torch is in the 'OFF' position.
2. Hold the gas torch in a safe position and check that there is nothing near that could catch fire.
3. Open the valve on the gas cylinder.
4. Hold a lighted taper by the nozzle and open the valve on the gas torch. If the gas torch has more than one nozzle, be prepared to light each nozzle in quick succession.
5. If the gas torch does not light within 10 to 15 seconds turn off the valve on the gas torch. Wait 15 or 20 seconds for the accumulated gas to disperse then attempt to relight the torch.
6. If the gas torch is being lit for the first time since the gas cylinder valve was opened, you may need to hold the lighted taper for a few seconds before the gas ignites.

(Continued overleaf...)

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