

Hot Work at Senior Living Communities: Protect Property and Lives

U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 4,440 structure fires involving hot work per year. These fires caused an average of 12 civilian deaths, 208 civilian injuries and \$287 million in direct property damage per year.¹



When most people hear about hot work, they think of metal shops, industrial welding operations and construction. But hot work is also conducted in lighter hazard occupancies such as restaurants, retail shopping centers, office buildings and even residential care facilities.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire departments respond to more than 4,400 structure fires involving hot work each year. To help prevent devastating property losses, it's critical to carefully monitor the area any time hot work is performed.

What is Hot Work?

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Hot work is "any work that involves burning, welding, using fire or spark-producing tools, or that uses a source of ignition." During this type of work, the sparks and heat produced can cause injuries or ignite a fire if not performed safely. While workers can use personal protective equipment to protect themselves, having a hot work permit program in place can help protect surrounding property.

At senior living and residential communities, hot work may be found in the maintenance department, or when outside contractors come onto your premises to provide services that involve hot work.

Senior Living and Residential Communities: Hot Work

Some examples of service or repair jobs conducted by maintenance employees or contractors where hot work may be involved include:

- Hot water heater tanks
- Air conditioning units
- Electrical equipment (open circuits, wires, power bars, fittings)
- Power lines
- Gas lines
- Torch-applied roofing

Some work areas may be small or confined, which creates an even greater risk for fires when working with dangerous equipment or tools.

If hot work is left unsupervised, fires can occur, causing property damage and threaten the lives of your staff and residents.

To help minimize fires and potential injuries to workers and residents, a hot work program should be in place at your facilities. Nationwide Loss Control Services has program guidance available for our members. The steps to help implement a hot work program specific to your operations include the following:

1. CHOOSE A HOT WORK PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Designate permit coordinator to manage and monitor hot work conditions. Arrange for the employee to be trained through NFPA programs or other sources.

2. DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR YOUR PROGRAM

Establish procedures for all hot work performed by your workers or any outside contractors including a step for completing a formal permit to help ensure proper safety precautions are taken each time.

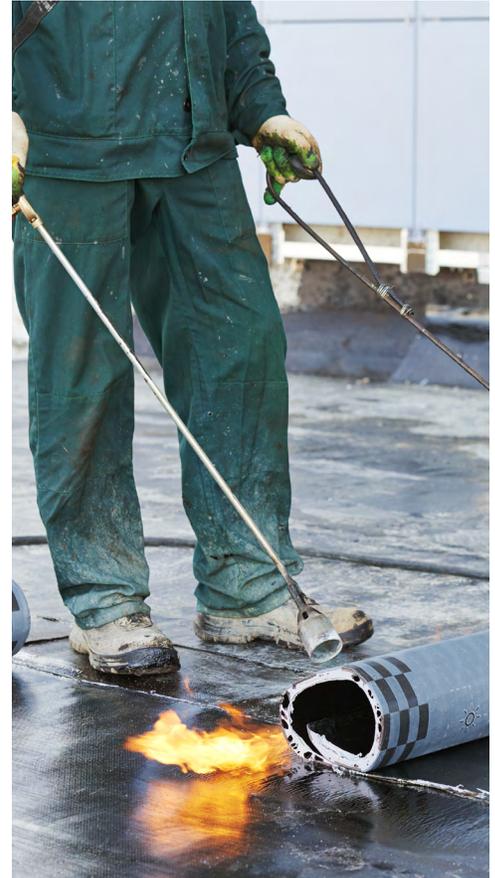
3. RECORD ALL HOT WORK PROJECTS IN A LOGBOOK

Maintain a record of all hot work projects for future review as necessary.

Visit [MyLossControlServices.com](https://www.nationwide.com/loss-control-services) for more hot work information and an [interactive hot work permit development program](#).

Additional Resources

- [National Fire Protection Association](#) - NFPA 51B, Standard for Fire Prevention during Welding, Cutting and Other Hot Work



Providing solutions
to help our members
manage risk.®

For your risk management and safety needs, contact Nationwide Loss Control Services: 1-866-808-2101 or LCS@nationwide.com.