

# Fire Safety and Hot Work in and Around SOM Facilities

Fire safety management is the responsibility of all UMB stakeholders while administered by the University Fire Marshal's Office. The link for the comprehensive fire safety resources is located at:

<https://www.umaryland.edu/fire-marshall/fire-safety/>

Resources accessed there include:

Fire Protection Features

Common Code Violations

Evacuation Plans

Fire Drills

Emergency Warden & Building Coordinator Program

Student Housing Fire Safety Tips

Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act.

## Hot Work Procedures

UMB OFM employees are designated as the permit authorizing individuals for all hot work activities at UMB. Before any hot work process can occur, a hot work permit must be obtained from OFM.

## Applicability

Hot work includes all welding and allied processes, heat treating, grinding, thawing pipe, powder-driven fasteners, hot riveting, torch applied roofing, and similar applications producing or using a Spark, flame, or heat. Departments that hire departmental equipment repair services including, but not limited to the use of welding, brazing, and soldering must comply with the hot work permitting process.

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) are permit authorizing individuals (PAI) for UMB and will perform spot checks of the hot work site and operating conditions. The OFM has the authority to revoke an approved permit or halt any hot work if any unsafe conditions are found. The hot work operator is responsible for complying with NFPA 51B, these procedures, and all conditions printed on the back of the hot work permit.

## Instructions

The hot work operator must apply for and obtain a hot work permit from the Office of the Fire Marshal during normal business hours. The hot work operator is responsible for reading and complying with all conditions written on the back of the hot work permit.

A copy of the approved hot work permit must be posted at the hot work site.

The hot work operator must ensure all combustible materials are relocated at least 35 ft away

from the hot work area. If relocation is impracticable, combustible material shall be shielded and openings and cracks in walls and floors shall be sealed.

The hot work operator must provide a fully charged and operable fire extinguisher immediately in the work area.

The hot work operator shall take special precaution to prevent accidental activation of automatic fire protection and detection systems.

After conclusion of hot work, the hot work operator or a designee must perform a fire watch for at least 1 hour to detect and extinguish smoldering fires. The individual must comply with the UMB Fire Watch Procedures .

### **Open Flame / Bunsen Burner Safety**

To safely work with a Bunsen burner, please keep in mind the following guidance from Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

Keep your work area, including overhead storage area, clear of flammable materials.

If Ethanol is being used with the Bunsen burner, keep at least 12 inches away from the flame. Use as small a volume as possible and keep it in a container with low center of gravity. Have a lid or other smothering device and a heat proof glove within reach in case of an accidental fire.

Always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, including a flame-resistant lab coat, gloves, and eye protection.

Know the locations of your nearest fire extinguisher, safety showers, eye washes, and fire alarm pull stations.

If there is an accidental fire, remain calm. Smother the flame if possible. For an active fire, activate the nearest fire alarm pull station. Even if the fire is successfully put out, report the incident to UMB Police

(410-706-3333).

For additional information, please contact:

Andrew Roberts, Fire Marshal, [aroberts@umaryland.edu](mailto:aroberts@umaryland.edu), 410-706-3494