



## **INTRODUCTION**

Welding, cutting, and associated processes often take place in areas where failing objects may be present. Failing objects may seriously injure or kill. Failing objects are common problems on construction and demolition sites of all kinds, from buildings to bridges, and are also often a problem during maintenance work.

## **HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST FALLING OBJECTS**

- Wear approved head and foot protection.
- Be alert and aware of your total work environment and any possible overhead objects before you start working.
- Place a safety net or equivalent below overhead work.
- Follow safe work practices when working below overhead activities.
- Notify others of overhead work and any changing job conditions.
- Remember, a welding helmet or goggles restricts vision and may prevent taking the action necessary to avoid falling objects.
- Post areas where failing objects are a hazard.

## **HOW TO PREVENT FALLING OBJECTS**

- Be certain that material being welded or cut is secured from failing.
- Do not permit loose objects near the edge 19 of overhead structures.
- Cover floor and wall openings.
- Use toe boards with guardrails.

- Do not kick, throw, or push anything off overhead structures this includes electrode stubs and scrap metal.
- Do not create falling objects for others—be alert to all your actions.

## **INFORMATION SOURCES**

American National Standards Institute (ANSI). *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, Z49.1, available from American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. *Safety and Health in Arc Welding and Gas Welding and Cutting*, NIOSH Publication No. 78-138. Cincinnati, Ohio: National Institute For Occupational Safety And Health.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 29 Labor, Chapter XVII, Parts 1901.1 to 1910.1450, Order No. 869-019-00111-5, available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 30 Mineral Resources, Parts 1-199, available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.