



INTRODUCTION

Welding, cutting and associated processes take place in a wide variety of locations under many different conditions. Welding and cutting occur in shops and factories on the floor level, on high steel in skyscraper construction, in pits, vats, mines, tanks, ship compartments, and literally everywhere that metals are joined or cut.

CAUSES OF TRIPPING AND FALLING

- Poor housekeeping of materials, equipment, hoses, and tools.
- Scattered parts and pieces either left over or waiting for use.
- Failure to use approved safety belts and harnesses or incorrect use of them when working above floor level.
- Electric shock from faulty equipment.
- Sudden loud noises or shouts.
- Incorrect or improperly used or installed safety equipment such as ladders, guard-rails, scaffolds, and nets.
- Failure to wear proper personal protective wear such as skid-resistant soles on shoes to meet the needs of the job.
- Horseplay or unsafe actions, such as tossing tools to each other or bumping someone in a precarious position.
- Restricted vision caused by needed safety gear such as welding helmets and safety goggles.
- Failure to fully understand the hazards, such as toxic fumes, when entering a pit, tank, or compartment.

HOW TO PREVENT TRIPPING AND FALLING

- Be alert, awake, and concentrated about the job and the work area; notice any changing conditions; stay focused—do not let yourself or others be preoccupied or woozy on the job.
- Wear and use only the correct, approved equipment for the specific job; be sure it is properly installed and used.
- Do not carry things that obstruct your view or that upset your balance.
- Prohibit horseplay on the job.
- Follow all standard safe practices required by your employer.
- Keep the work area clean and neat—ask your supervisor for help if this is a problem.
- Do not take chances or unnecessary risks—such actions can cause accidents.

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.

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.

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.

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.