

	Oxyacetylene Safety Update	Effective:	February 06, 2006
		Originator	T. J. Kendrick
		Last Updated	February 06, 2006
		Updated by	T. J. Kendrick

1. Purpose:

To update personnel with the changes required for the safe use of oxyacetylene tanks and equipment.

2. Scope:

This safety requirement applies to trained facilities personnel that are required to use oxyacetylene equipment for brazing, cutting or welding.

3. Procedure

Flashback Arrestors

OSHA recommends that all oxyacetylene rigs be equipped with **flashback arrestor devices** for the best protection against accidental flashback and explosion. Check valves do not provide the same level of protection as flashback arrestors. While properly maintained check valves prevent reverse flow of gases, they may not stop a "flame front" traveling back to the regulator.

Flame arrestors provide triple protection:

- a filter that stops the flame from traveling back to the regulator;
- a check valve that stops reverse flow of gases;
- a cut-off valve that stops the flow of gases.

Flashback arrestors are a one-time cost for a set of two (one for oxygen and one for acetylene) and are permanently mounted on the oxyacetylene rig between the regulators and hoses. They can be regularly tested "in line" without disconnection.

Acetylene Regulators

Acetylene line pressure that exceeds 15 psig is **DANGEROUS**. The pressure must never exceed 15 psig when working with university equipment.

Gas Cylinder Storage

Please refer to [SafetyWeb #00](#), Compressed Gas Safety, for information on proper storage and handling of backup or empty gas cylinders.

Safety and Security Department Notification and Hot Work Permits

Supervisors are responsible for notifying the Safety and Security Department before the start of welding/cutting operations. Call the Safety and Security Dispatch at Ext. 113 to provide notification. Notification must be done before the start of each job, unless the work is in a permitted location where welding is routinely done.