

<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION</b>  <b>BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY</b>	Procedure No: FR-FPR-5.0.1  Revision No: 3  Page 1 of 3
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**Title: Fire Watches for Cutting/Welding “Hot” Work**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 Cutting and welding operations produce many potential ignition sources, in the form of sparks and globules of molten metal, which often scatter widely. These may fall into cracks, pipe holes or other small openings in floors and partitions, starting fires which reach serious proportions before being noticed. Electric arcs, oxygen-fuel gas flames and hot metal being cut or welded may cause fires where combustible materials are left in the vicinity of the work. Serious fires are most frequent in areas not specifically designated for such work.
- 1.2 Laboratory policy relating to cutting and welding operations, and similar "hot" work, are detailed in the Standard Based Management System (SBMS) ES&H Standard 4.3.0, "Cutting and Welding". This Procedure outlines the responsibilities of Firefighters assigned as "Fire Watches" within the context of the Standard Based Management System (SBMS) ES&H Standard 4.3.0

**2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 All Officers and Firefighters are responsible for being familiar with the contents of Standard Based Management System (SBMS) ES&H Standard 4.3.0.

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Firefighter responsibilities:

When assigned fire watch duty, the Firefighter shall:

- 2.1.1 Have fire extinguishing equipment readily available.
- 2.1.2 Be familiar with the facilities for sounding a fire alarm.
- 2.1.3 Request that workers stop or correct any condition that might lead to a fire. The Duty Captain is to be notified immediately.
- 2.1.4 Monitor the cutting and welding operation, or other "hot" work, and be on the alert for signs of fire.
- 2.1.5 Try to extinguish fires only when obviously within the capacity of equipment. Otherwise, immediately call in an alarm.
- 2.1.6 Remain on the work site while work is performed and check for smoldering fires at least 30 minutes (or longer, if specified by the Duty Captain) after the work is completed or any time workers leave the immediate area.
- 2.1.7 Immediately respond to any emergency alarms upon hearing them announced on the radio.
- 2.1.8 If the firefighter is required to leave for any reason, the Firefighter is to request that all "hot" work cease immediately,\* unless it has been determined in advance that other workers are trained and available to assume fire watch responsibilities.

### **3.0 DEFINITIONS**

None

### **4.0 PREREQUISITES**

None

### **5.0 PRECAUTIONS**

None

### **6.0 PROCEDURE**

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\*The worker is to then act as the fire watch for the period of time specified on the permit. "Hot" work is not to start again until a fire watch is reestablished.

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**7.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING**

**8.0 REFERENCES**

8.1 SBMS ES&H Standard 4.3.0

**9.0 ATTACHMENTS**

None