

Propane torches, although valuable to a jobsite, are sometimes misused in a manner that can make them a dangerous tool. Supervisors are responsible for facilitating and/or providing proper instruction to their workers on protection requirements and training.

**SAFE WORK PRACTICE – Protecting workers from injuries associated with the use of propane torches.**

- Ensure you are confidently trained with the operation of equipment before use.
- When a torch is used, an adequate fire extinguisher must be present,
- Eye and face protection must be worn when heating edges where loose aggregate is present because the rocks can explode due to the extreme heat that is applied to them.
- Ensure fuel lines are in good working condition. Inspect the hoses and valves to ensure there are no leaks. If you suspect that there is a leak, do not use a match to test. Instead, use soap and water and look for bubbles.
- Ensure proper cylinders are secured and regulators in place.
- Ensure that the propane bottle is in the upright position during use of the torch.
- Follow proper procedures for lighting the torch.
- When not used for pre-heating operation, shut the torch off. Do not leave the torch on, unattended.
- Torches are not to be used for heating or thawing lines where known hydrocarbons are present.
- **Do not use a torch to heat a propane tank.**
- Ensure that the propane bottles are properly shut off.
- Ensure that you turn the propane off at the tank and not just the torch head. This will ensure that no propane will leak out of the tank if there is a leak in the propane line linking the tank to the torch.
- Flame-resistant gaiters are available if needed. If you don't feel safe using a torch, STOP use and contact your supervisor.



