Job site:	Date:
Foreman:	G.C

## **SMOHIT Safety Sense**Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

## **Arc Welding**

- Arc welding is a safe process when sufficient measures are taken to
  protect the welder from potential hazards and when proper operating
  practices are followed. Major hazards welders can encounter include
  exposure to fumes and gases, arc rays, sparks, burns, and electric
  shock.
- Harmful fumes and gases are given off during the welding process, especially when welding on galvanized and other coated metals. Work in well-ventilated areas. If working in a confined space, use a respirator or other approved breathing apparatus.
- The electric arc from arc welding emits large amounts of ultraviolet and infrared rays. Both of these types of rays are invisible to the naked eye, but can cause severe burns to the eyes and face in a very short period of time. Wear safety glasses or a face shield to protect your eyes and face from burns.
- Hot metal sparks may leave the arc and fly in all directions. The sparks can range in temperature from 2000° to 3000°F, and in size from very small to as large as ¼ inch. Keep body parts that are accessible to burns covered with flame-retardant clothing.
- Standing in damp areas, welding without gloves, or using bare cables
  or uninsulated holders can cause electric shock. Make sure your
  welding equipment is properly grounded. Never allow bare skin to
  touch the welder. Do not stand in wet areas and wear leather gloves
  while welding.
- Know the locations of fire extinguishers. Do not weld near combustible or flammable materials.

## **Instructor Tips**

 Point out the types and locations of all fire extinguishers to workers.

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Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.351, .353