

## FIRE SAFETY

### I. Hazard

#### A. Burning Object

\*Combustible item or surface is ignited with torch or hot glass

### II. Response

A. Shut down torch

B. Use fire extinguisher

C. If needed, evacuate and call fire department

### III. Precautionary Actions

A. Keep work area clear of combustible items

B. Wear clothing of low flammability

C. Pay attention to where torch is pointing and to where hot glass may fall

D. Fuel tank placement

1. Bulk fuel tanks of combustible gas should not be in the workspace

2. All fuel tanks should be secured to a wall, pillar, etc.

### IV. Hazard

#### A. Equipment Failure

1. Valve or hose breaks; gas and/or oxygen leaks

2. Fire can get out of control quickly

3. Very serious!

#### B. Response

1. If possible, turn off fuel at tank (do not risk yourself)

2. Evacuate and call fire department

#### C. Precautionary Actions

1. Frequently inspect equipment for wear, damage or leakage

Propane and Oxygen Hoses, Torch Connections: Use indicator fluid specifically designated as safe for oxygen service (available at hardware stores)

2. Replace any questionable component

### V. Protective Equipment for Every Studio/Workshop

#### A. Fire Extinguishers (rated for 3 types of fire)

1. Class A—for ordinary combustibles such as wood or paper

i. Preceding number tells how many gallons of water are equivalent to the contained dry chemical

ii. Multiply number by 1.25 for water gallon equivalent

2. Class B—for flammable liquids and gases

i. Preceding number states size of fire in square feet that can be extinguished

ii. Example: A fire extinguisher rated 3-A:40-B:C contains the equivalent of 3.75 gallons of water, can be used to fight a flammable liquid fire in an area about 6 foot by 6 foot (around 40 square feet), and can safely be used in electrically energized fires

3. Class C—for electrically energized fires

## B. General Info

1. Every studio/workshop should have at least one
2. Better to have one by work surface and one by each exit
3. Recommended minimum rating: 3-A:40-B:C
4. Know how to use the fire extinguisher and review info periodically
5. Use extinguisher for small fire
6. For large fire, evacuate and call fire department

## VI. Other types of protection/equipment

- A. Fire retardant blanket
- B. Smoke detector
- C. First aid kit including salve for burns, band aids for cuts

## REFERENCES

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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#### **Websites:**

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Warm Glass "Health and Safety": [http://www.warmglass.com/Health\\_and\\_safety.htm](http://www.warmglass.com/Health_and_safety.htm) includes treating burns.

*Contact your kiln and torch manufacturers or view their websites for safety information.*