When do I need to complete a Hot Work Permit?

Hot work is any operation that produces a heat, a flame, or sparks such as electric or gas welding, abrasive cutting, soldering, grinding, and brazing activities. Below are some examples of hot work activities.

Welding – The joining together (metal pieces or parts) by heating the surfaces to the point of melting using a blowtorch, electric arc, or other means, and uniting them by pressure, hammering, etc.

Cutting/Grinding – Any process which produces sparks capable of igniting combustible or flammable materials and transmits heat to the work material from a hot gas.

Soldering - Soldering is a process in which metals are joined by melting a filler metal into the joint to create strong permanent bonds. Soldering may or may not have capillary attraction and is done at a temperature below 840°F, much lower than welding. This process allows for different metals to be soldered, including copper, brass and gold, just to name a few.

Brazing – Brazing is a process in which metals are joined by melting a filler metal into the joint to create strong permanent bonds. Brazing requires a small joint spacing to allow capillary action to draw the filler metal into the joint when the parts reach the proper phase temperature above 840°F (450°C).

When do I not need a Hot Work Permit?

There are a few exceptions when a Hot Work Permit is not required. The following operations do not require a Hot Work Permit:

- Bunsen burners in laboratories,
- Small electric soldering irons used for repairing electronics only,
- Authorized grilling on campus, or
- Sterno products for official university catered events.