

TIGER TORCHES

1. Task

Safe operation of “tiger” torches on construction sites.

2. Hazards

Fire hazard, explosion hazard, burn injuries.

3. Controls

Pre-Job Safety Assessment (PSA). CSA/ANSI approved equipment and PPE's, fire extinguisher, worker training (propane handling in construction), competent supervision, emergency planning.

- ❖ Wear proper personal protective equipment, including hard hats, safety boots, eye protection, and gloves. Clothing must be flame-resistant (cotton or wool-no synthetics).
- ❖ Hot work permits must be acquired, and a fire watch equipped with a fire extinguisher in place during and a minimum of 1 hour after torch down roofing operations with a thorough check of all adjacent and lower levels where combustibles are present.
- ❖ Check work areas for combustible material and remove what is not needed.
- ❖ Inspect torches before use. All equipment must be in good working order, with fittings, hoses, and head secure and cylinder valves clean.
- ❖ Check connections with “SNOOP” leak detector liquid.
- ❖ Do not use leaking propane equipment. If a leak occurs during operation, stop immediately.
- ❖ When torch is stored indoors, allow to cool and store equipment in protective cases.
- ❖ Unless operating the torch, stay at least two or three metres away from the flame.
- ❖ Be aware of gas and electrical lines. If a potential gas or electrical threat is present perform a utility locate. Turn off, de-energize/put in place adequate protection.
- ❖ When shutting off the torch, close the propane cylinder valve first. Let the remaining gas in the hose and torch burn off, and then close the torch valve.
- ❖ Ensure workers have been adequately trained in the assembly and general maintenance of the system. Training must include proper storage, handling, and use of propane.
- ❖ Workers must designate a person responsible in the event of a fire.
- ❖ Ensure all workers know the escape route.
- ❖ Has at least one fully charged 4A40BC fire extinguisher readily accessible (within 6 metres (20 feet) of each worker using a torch)?
- ❖ Never leave torches ignited and unattended. Tiger torches cannot be left burning unless the operator is holding it, or it is equipped with a thermal coupling.
- ❖ Make sure compressed gas cylinders are securely braced upright or tied in order to prevent movement.
- ❖ Use only approved high pressure hoses to connect torches to regulators.
- ❖ Whenever possible, always keep body upwind of fumes. Prevent clothing from becoming saturated with combustible gas.
- ❖ Light all flames with an approved ignitor. Using matches or butane lighters to light torches is dangerous.
- ❖ Do not smoke near propane tanks and equipment. If fuel were to leak from the unit, smoking could provide ignition and cause a fire or an explosion.
- ❖ Workers are not permitted to connect, disconnect, or activate torches unless they have written evidence that they have been trained to the required standard.