



Blacksmiths Safe Working Practices

To comply with existing legislation, codes of practice and your employer's requirements on health and safety you must:-

1. Take reasonable care for the health and safety of yourself and other persons who may be affected by your acts or omissions at work.
2. Do not interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interest of health, safety or welfare.
3. Take care to see that the public are not exposed to any hazards from work processes.
4. Wash hands before taking meals. Do not use degreasing agents, such as paraffin or other solvents to wash your hands. This can cause skin infections and cancer.
5. Wear the appropriate items of protective and safety equipment whenever risk assessments require it, in particular:-

Goggles - when grinding, cutting or work likely to cause flying particles.

Helmets - when working in hazardous conditions, when workmen are overhead, where there is overhanging debris or where working under anything that could strike from overhead.

Respirators - when working in dusty conditions.

Face shields - when arc welding.

6. Before using a machine ensure that moving parts are securely guarded unless already rendered safe by position or construction. Guards must not be removed during operational use. Under no circumstances must an unauthorised person remove guards at any time; do not wear loose clothing, such as sleeves and ties.
7. Do not use lifting equipment unless the safe working load is clearly marked on it. Only use lifting equipment within its prescribed safety limits.
8. Ensure that gas cylinders are kept upright when being transported. Check for leaks. Keep cylinders away from oil and grease; and handle cylinders with care.
9. Ensure that the floor area is kept clear from slip hazards, especially near machinery.

10. Use the ladder or, where appropriate, scaffolding or the other safe means of access provided where work cannot be safely done from the ground. Unauthorised persons must not interfere with or alter scaffolding provided. Scaffolding must not be re-used until it has been inspected and the “Scaffold Waiting Inspection” sign has been removed.
11. Ensure that you have adequate ventilation when welding metals or materials that could give off noxious fumes. Before welding in a confined space, or on containers suspected of having been used for chemical or flammable materials, check with your immediate supervisor that the Safety Officer has been consulted (see Work in Confined Spaces).
12. Do not change abrasive wheel cutting discs unless you have been trained and authorised to do so.
13. If an accident occurs, ensure that an Accident Form is completed as soon as possible (see Accident Reporting).