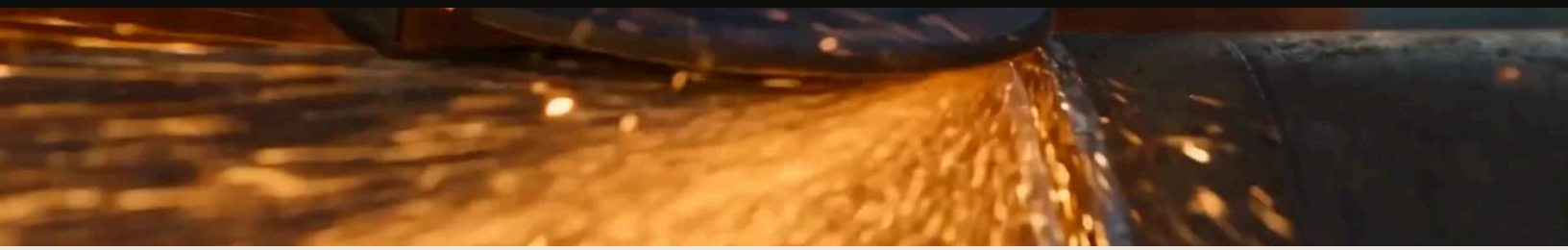
HOT WORK FLASH FIRE

One spark, three skipped steps, and air nobody tested.



WHAT HAPPENED

A contract crew is grinding on a steel line near a tank battery. The job is routine and the crew has done it plenty of times. Nobody tests the air first.

Flammable vapor has collected around the work area. You can't see it or smell it at a dangerous level. The first spark finds it, and the air around the crew ignites in a flash fire.

This scenario is a composite built from common hot work incidents. It is not a single real event.

WHERE IT TURNED

01 **No gas test.** The monitor stayed clipped to a belt, never used on the work area.

02 **No hot work permit.** Nobody walked the area or signed off before the grinder started.

03 **No fire watch.** Nobody was posted with an extinguisher.

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN



Test the air

Check the work area with a calibrated gas monitor first. Keep it running and stop if it alarms.



Pull the permit

Get the hot work permit signed. Walk the area, clear or shield anything that can burn, and isolate nearby tanks and lines.



Post a fire watch

One person, extinguisher in hand, whose only job is watching. They stay through the work and after it, since a fire can start late.

ASK YOUR CREW

When was the last time you saw the gas monitor actually used before hot work?

What makes it tempting to skip the permit on a quick job?

Who here would you trust as fire watch, and what would they need?

WATCH THE FILM: JOBSITEREWIND.COM/OIL-GAS

General awareness only. Follow your company's hot work program and applicable regulations.

LEARN IT ON SCREEN.
NOT ON SITE.