

Working with welding, cutting and soldering of lead-containing materials

Lead vaporizes at 1100 ° F. and these vapors/fumes can be inhaled by unprotected workers. These processes can also generate minute particles of lead dust which can be inhaled. Improperly handled wastes from these processes pose a potential hazard to human health and the environment.

When there is reason to expect that the materials to be welded, cut, or otherwise disturbed contain lead, the materials should be tested by EHS prior to beginning the work. If lead is present, use of appropriate respirators, and/or exhaust ventilation is required. Where exhaust ventilation is used to control employee exposures to acceptable levels, periodic exhaust performance assessments by EHS are required.

Welding, cutting and soldering lead-containing materials must be done in well-ventilated areas. Areas where lead dust or debris may accumulate must be covered before the operations begin, and the covering material and waste disposed of in an appropriate covered container labeled "Lead Waste".

Additional Details on Lead Safety may be found in the NAU Lead Safety Manual.

Contact and additional program information for NAU EHS safety personnel and programs is available on the EHS Website www.nau.edu/ehs or by using the EHS switchboard email nauehs@nau.edu or ocsafety@nau.edu.