

TAKE CONTROL

Contact with Hot and Cold Objects

This information bulletin has been produced to assist in the prevention of workplace injury and disease. Identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks can ensure the control of health and safety in the workplace.

Risk indicators in the workplace

Some things to look for include:

- Hot and cold objects or surfaces not identified as being hot or cold;
- Work carried out near fire and flame without any form of barrier in between;
- Work carried out near uninsulated cold objects;
- Poorly maintained equipment, such as leaking valves;
- Steam emissions from objects, such as urns, hot pots, pressure vessels, ie boilers;
- Vapour and gas emissions from cold objects, such as cold pots;
- Manual handling of hot and cold products;
- Employees working with hot or cold substances without appropriate personal protective equipment;
- Molten metal and water in the same area.

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- Mechanical handling aids are available to handle hot and cold objects;
- Hot and cold processes are automated where possible;
- Hot and cold objects are relocated away from frequently occupied areas;
- Hot and cold objects and processes are identified and labelled as such;
- Contact between molten metal and water is avoided and all equipment used for handling molten metal is kept completely dry;
- There is enough space for easy movement around hot and cold objects;
- Heat proof and/or insulated guards, shields and screens are installed;
- Insulation of hot and cold objects is maintained;
- Employees are provided with the correct personal protective clothing and equipment for the work to be done (for example, safety gloves and/or insulated clothing);
- Appropriate fire extinguishers are readily available and maintained, and employees have been trained in their use; and
- Mechanical handling aids are properly maintained by the employer.

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.

For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or visit www.worksafe.nt.gov.au