

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Cutting, Welding, & Compressed Gas Safety – Care of Torch Hoses

[Reference: 1910.253 / 1926.350]

Hoses used for oxy-fuel gas cutting torches are easily subjected to misuse and damage. And the consequences of using a damaged or improperly assembled hose could prove harmful. Here are some safety tips on the proper use and care of hoses for oxy-fuel gas torches:

- Make sure to only use approved hoses designed for use with an oxy-fuel gas torch. Using a hose intended for compressed air or other purposes on a torch is prohibited.
- Green colored hose shall always be used for oxygen, red hose shall be used for acetylene, and the two shall not be interchanged.
- Hoses should be blown out thoroughly to remove foreign matter before attaching to the torch and regulators.
- Torch hoses shall be inspected before use. Any hose showing leaks, burns, worn places, or other defects rendering it unfit for service shall be immediately repaired or replaced.
- If a portion of a hose or a hose connection is suspected of leaking, it can be tested by using a brush or spray bottle to apply soapy water to the area while the hose is under pressure. Leaks are indicated where bubbles form.
- Hose connections shall be secured with crimped fittings, or clamps that are specifically approved for use with compressed gas hoses on torches. Water hose clamps or similar devices are not to be used on a torch hose.
- Keep torch hoses free of oil or grease, as these will cause the rubber to deteriorate and become damaged.
- A torch hose shall be kept protected from being run over by heavy equipment or machinery. Hoses shall not be left where they create a tripping hazard. Tangles and kinks in a hose should also be avoided.
- Hoses shall be protected from sparks, slag, and open flames, as well as from falling materials. Hoses shall also be kept away from all hot surfaces and readily combustible materials.
- Repairing hose with tape or make-shift devices shall not be attempted. Only an authorized person shall make repairs by cutting the hose and then recoupling it with an approved coupling or connector.
- When parallel lengths of oxygen and acetylene hose are taped together for convenience and to prevent tangling, a minimal amount of tape should be used. In no circumstances shall more than 4 inches out of 12 inches on the hose be covered by tape.

Would anyone like to share any other safety tips for the care and use of oxy-fuel gas torch hoses? Thank you for participating in today's toolbox talk. Please make sure you sign the training certification form to get credit for attending today's training session.