Torching Welding Clothing

Propane torches operate at temperatures exceeding 2000 F and torch mechanics can be burned or injured when applying modified bitumen membranes. Protective clothing must be worn during modified bitumen applications, summer and winter, to reduce the risk of burns and flame related injuries. Do not take your work clothing for granted.

Basic personal protective clothing shall be worn at all times when applying torch-on membranes. Long sleeved-buttoned shirts, long pants without cuffs and high-topped safety boots must be worn. Do not wear athletic footwear while torching as they contain a large quantity of synthetic material and do not provide proper protection against burns or other foot related injuries. Never wear sandals, short sleeved shirts or short pants when roofing or torching. Replace or repair damaged clothing that are torn or ripped. Do not wear synthetic materials such as nylon or polyester as they burn easily. Choose clothing made from natural fibers such as wool or cotton as these fabrics are more resistant to fire. When torching wear leather gloves to protect hands from burns. Always button shirt cuffs overtop of the gloves to prevent hot objects from entering the gloves when torching.

During winter applications check that winter work clothing is not made from synthetic materials. Most winter clothing including gloves and headgear are manufactured from manmade (synthetic) materials that are highly flammable. Don't cover the face or head with toques or facemasks made from synthetic fabrics. Remove or cover fleece jackets and vests as they are highly flammable. Remove fur and fleece trim or collars from winter jackets and hoods that surround the face and head. Do not wear snowmobile suits, boots or other winter footwear made from synthetic materials. To reduce the risk of fire, cover synthetic clothing with cotton or flame resistant coveralls. Insulated leather winter gloves and boots can be purchased from a safety supplier.