

Hot work

An Aviva Risk Management
Solutions guide

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Hot work overview

Hot work is, by its very nature, a risky undertaking. Working with any source of ignition – particularly if there are other flammable materials around – increases the risks of serious injury, significant damage to property, or even death. All of these come at a great cost to your people, not to mention the potential cost to your business.

But that doesn't mean that we can – or even should – stop undertaking hot work. It just means that we have to do everything we can to make it as safe as possible.

At Aviva, our proactive approach to risk management allows us to help our customers mitigate the risks of hot work more effectively. By sharing information and advice on how to reduce the risk of a fire when undertaking hot work, we hope this guide also helps you to continue protecting your people and your business.



"Over the course of my career, I have been involved with many fire losses attributable to hot work... There still exists a failure to learn from the numerous incidents that occur and, in my view, it is a completely avoidable cause of fire."

Chris Andrews
Head of Aviva Risk Management Solutions

Chris explains more in his article 'Heated Subject', published in the Fire & Risk Management Journal.

[Read the article](#)



Selecting and managing contractors


Lots of companies use external contractors to undertake specialist activities, such as electrical work or roof maintenance. They may also use third parties to relieve the burden on their own employees. For example, many companies contract out services outside their own field of experience, such as security, maintenance and cleaning.

If this work includes additional hazards – such as hot work, working at height, or confined space entry – contractors need to be selected and managed effectively, to minimise the risk of injury or property damage.

Our guide to managing contractors offers valuable guidance on selecting and working with contractors on specialist or high-risk work.

Managing Contractors LPS





Construction and the Joint Code of Practice (JCOP)

The **Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire on Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation** – or **JCOP** for short – provides highly regarded best practice guidelines for the construction industry. It applies to activities carried out prior to and during the design, procurement and construction processes. It's also often referred to in insurance contracts.

We believe complying with the code will greatly reduce the risk of a fire breaking out and causing damage to the construction site, helping avoid the associated costs and reducing the risk of injury.

Section 16 of JCOP considers the control required around hot work. Along with Aviva's Hot Work Operations Loss Prevention Standard, it provides guidance on best practice that will greatly reduce the risks.

You can purchase the JCOP here:

[Joint Code of Practice](#)



Conducting hot work operations

Hot work is one of the few occasions in which a naked flame is intentionally introduced into the workplace, making it one of the most high-risk activities.

Common hot work activities include anything that uses:

- gas and electric welding and cutting equipment
- blow lamps and blow torches
- electric or gas hot air guns, heaters or blowers
- bitumen and tar boilers
- angle grinders and grinding wheels
- brazing and soldering equipment
- drills
- any other equipment that can produce a spark, frictional heat or flame.

The risk is increased when combustible materials are present, or when working in an area that is constructed with combustible materials. This includes:

- timber frames
- combustible insulated panels
- some modern methods of construction, such as Cross Laminated Timber.

Failure to manage hot work appropriately is an all too frequent cause of fire, leading to both significant property damage and the risk of fatal injuries. In order to ensure your business is adequately protected – and that you do not put employees, contractors or visitors at risk – it is essential that you follow appropriate hot work procedures. You'll find guidance on these procedures in our Hot Work Operations Loss Prevention Standard.

Hot Work Operations LPS





Using thermographics

Thermographic cameras are a great tool that can be used to manage risk and identify any particular hot spots. Using them as part of your hot work controls is a highly effective way to prevent fires.

Using thermographic imaging

- Before any hot work takes place, take images of the work and surrounding area.
- During the work, take further images of the area to ensure there are no hot spots that might indicate fire ignition.
- After the work has been completed, use thermographics as a key part of your fire-watch checks and procedures.
- Compare your images and ensure the thermographic signatures match, pre- and post-work.
- Retain time-stamped photographs of work undertaken, and the surrounding area, to provide evidence that the fire-watch has been completed.

Our Specialist Partner, PASS, provide the latest thermographic technology and the necessary training. They also offer preferential rates to Aviva customers.

[Find out more](#)



The Hot Work Passport

The Fire Protection Association (FPA) provides various qualifications that allow both contractors and employees to demonstrate that they have the appropriate knowledge to conduct hot work operations safely.

You should consider only allowing contractors to complete hot works on your site if they have one of these recognised qualifications, such as a Hot Work Passport.

You should also consider providing equivalent training for relevant in-house maintenance staff, or for anyone else involved in hot work. Don't forget, that might include staff who are responsible for Health and Safety and the supervision of work, not just those who undertake it.

Find out more about the Fire Protection Association's Hot Work Passport here:

Hot Work Passport





Related Health and Safety risks

It's important to remember that undertaking hot work may entail introducing additional hazards into the workplace, such as:

- fire
- disease exposures
- compressed gases
- electrical risks
- risk of 'arc eye' (also known as 'welder's flash').

All of these are additional reasons why hot work needs to be managed effectively, to minimise the risk of injury to all concerned, or of damage to property.

You can find out more about minimising the risks related to hot work in our guides to contractor management, hot work, permit to work systems, using angle grinders, welding, and working at height.

Managing Contractors LPS

[**Find out more**](#)

Hot Work Operations LPS

[**Find out more**](#)

Permit to Work Systems LPS

[**Find out more**](#)

Angle Grinders LPS

[**Find out more**](#)

Welding Operations LPS

[**Find out more**](#)

Work at Height LPS

[**Find out more**](#)



Stay protected

Risk is a factor in every organisation. The form it takes varies from sector to sector and business to business, but it's a constant that demands serious consideration.

Our team can work alongside you to understand, analyse and help to minimise the threats and exposures that arise in any business, and put into action sensible measures to control them.

Take a look at the sectors and wide range of risks Aviva Risk Management Solutions can address to protect businesses from uncertainty.

Support includes:

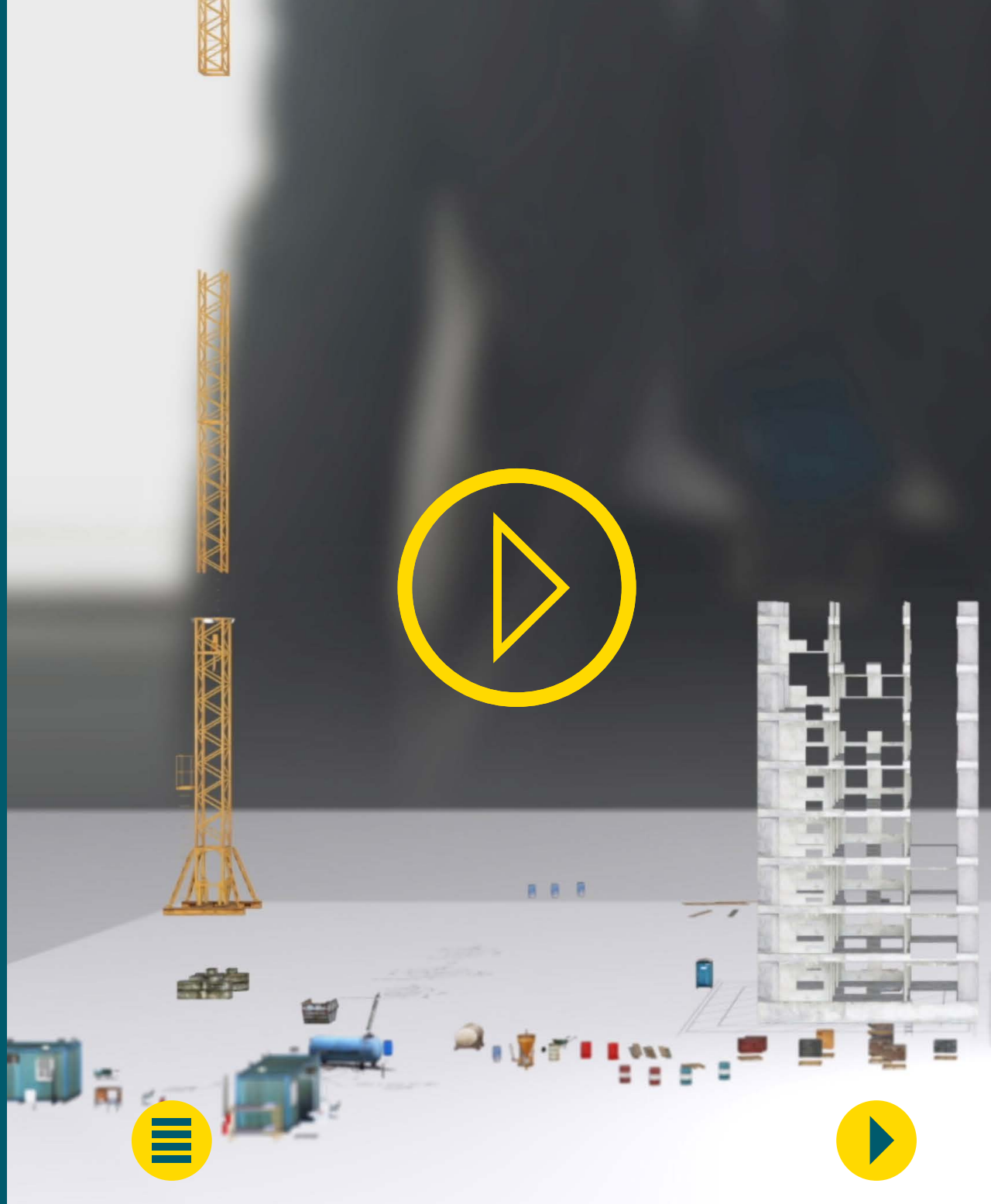
- Loss Prevention Standard Library
- Webinars
- Virtual Risk Management
- Back to Business podcasts

[Aviva Risk Management Covid-19 hub](#)

[Guidance by risk type](#)

[Aviva Risk Management Specialist Partners](#)

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If you would like more information or assistance with hot works or any other areas of risk, visit aviva.co.uk/risksolutions or contact us at riskadvice@aviva.com

This document contains general information and guidance. It is not intended to be specific advice and should not be relied on as such. It may not cover every risk, exposure or hazard that may arise and we recommend that you obtain specific advice relevant to your circumstances. We accept no responsibility or liability in respect of any person who may rely upon this document.

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BM01012 02/2021

