

WELDING FUME RESPIRATORY HAZARDS

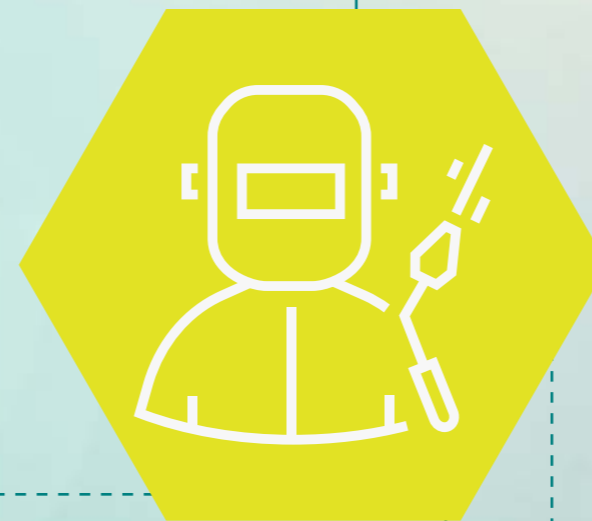
Welding fume is dangerous. If left unattended, the fumes can cover your workspace in a thin, toxic veil. This may result in terrible consequences for your welding staff's health and wellbeing.

OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA

Welders should be particularly aware of stainless-steel fume, containing chromium oxide (CrO₃) and nickel oxide. These chemicals are known to cause asthma.

REDUCED LUNG FUNCTION

Overall lung capacity is affected by prolonged exposure to welding fume. The effects tend to get worse through the working week but gradually improve when not exposed.



METAL FUME FEVER

Welders with metal fume fever often experience flu-like symptoms at the beginning of the week. The symptoms are usually associated with inhaling zinc, copper or magnesium fumes.

LUNG CANCER

Welders are prone to lung infections, which have the potential to lead to severe pneumonia. HSE estimates that breathing metal fume at work leads to 40 - 50 welders each year being hospitalised.

PNEUMONIA

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IRRITATION OF THROAT AND LUNGS

Gases and fine particles in welding fume can cause dryness of the throat, tickling, coughing or a tight chest. Extreme exposure to ozone can cause pulmonary oedema (fluid on the lungs).