

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Burns/scalds from contact with flame, hot surfaces, equipment or food



Ignition of overheated food or other flammable items



Explosion or fire associated with use of gas

Safety Task Card

STCCS 43

Use of blowtorches

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Never use the blowtorch if it is leaking gas or malfunctioning.
2. Hold the blowtorch in an upright position when lighting it.
3. Ensure that you are ready to light the flame as soon as the gas is turned on.
4. Only use the blowtorch in a well-ventilated area.
5. Use the blowtorch away from flammable materials.
6. Always hold the blowtorch by the handle if it has one.
7. Ensure that food being seared is placed on a non-flammable surface, such as a metal tray.
8. Do not hold the container of food being seared in your hand.
9. Never put the blowtorch down on or near to a hot surface or ignition source.
10. Always put the blowtorch down on a level surface.
11. Never leave the blowtorch unattended when lit.
12. Always fit and change gas cartridges or refill the gas chamber in a well-ventilated area, away from any naked flames and, where practicable, outside in the open air
13. Do not use the blowtorch for prolonged periods – turn it off after 30 minutes and allow it to cool before relighting it.
14. Do not use the blowtorch to light ovens, grills etc.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

Use of blowtorches continued

Safety Task Card

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Safe System of Work

15. Ensure that the gas control knob is fully turned off after use.
16. After use allow all hot parts to cool and then store immediately in a secure, well-ventilated place below 50°C, out of direct sunlight and at least one metre away from any flammable materials and ignition sources.
17. Blowtorches with removable gas canisters should have the canister removed prior to storage to reduce the risk of leakage.
18. Never attempt to repair or modify the blowtorch.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.