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RISK ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT

Cutting, Scrap yard behind Unit 5, Edgeley Works, Stockport

Hollins & Reed Metalwork Ltd · 12 to 14 October 2026 · In charge: Dan Hollins

Job details

Company	Hollins & Reed Metalwork Ltd
Site and work area	Scrap yard behind Unit 5, Edgeley Works, Stockport
Planned dates	12 to 14 October 2026
Customer	Edgeley Works Ltd
In charge on site	Dan Hollins
Team	Two operatives: Dan Hollins cuts; Priya Shah is the fire watch and stays for an hour after the last cut.
Work	Cutting
Prepared by	Dan Hollins
Signature	
Date	

Work and boundaries

Fuel-gas cut. Areas: Cutting bay in the north corner of the yard

Working arrangement

- Access: the floor or ground.
- Gas set: Oxygen and propane.
- The work area will be kept clear of other people.

Emergency arrangements

Continuous siren; assemble at the site gate. First aider: Dan Hollins, first aid kit in the van. Ambulances come to the main entrance: Scrap yard behind Unit 5, Edgeley Works, Stockport. Dan Hollins calls 999 and meets the ambulance.

Planned method

1 **Set up the work area**
Confirm the work area and scope before starting. Keep other people outside the active work area. Keep entrances and escape routes clear.

2 **Find and isolate hidden services**
Find cables and pipes before you disturb anything: drawings, then a detector. Mark what you find. Not sure what is there? Turn the supply off, or do not start. Have cables and gas isolated by the right person and prove them dead before you start.

3 **Carry the steel, tools and metal parts safely**
Plan the route, clear it, and get help with anything long or heavy. Store materials close to the work so nobody carries further than they need to.

4 **Check and clean the metal before cutting**
Remove dirt and grease where the method allows. Do not flame cut a former fuel or chemical container without safe certification.

5 **Prove it dead before you cut into it**
Metalwork often carries cables, conduit or trunking. Get the circuit switched off, locked off and proved dead first. Do not cut, grind or weld on anything still live.

6 **Clear combustibles before hot work**
Walk the area with the site contact. Check around the work, below it and on the other side of any partition. Move combustible material away, or cover it with flame-resistant covers. Protect openings with non-combustible board. Agree which detector zone is isolated, who isolates it and who puts it back on. Place at least two suitable extinguishers at the work and post a fire watcher who is not doing the hot work.

7 **Check the gas set before lighting**
Bring only the cylinders the job needs, secured upright on a trolley, and check the torch, hoses, regulators and connections. Keep oxygen fittings free from oil and grease.

8 **Fit flashback arresters**
Fit the correct arresters to the oxygen and fuel hoses near the regulators. Check the torch, hoses and arresters before use.

9 **Check for gas leaks safely**
Test suspected leaks with leak fluid, never with a flame. Keep hose runs protected from hot metal, sharp edges and traffic.

10 **Control the flame and slag path**
Work out where the flame, slag and sparks can go, including the far side and lower levels. Protect openings with non-combustible board before the torch is lit.

11 **Get the hot-work permit for this place and shift**
Get a permit for this location and this shift, once the area is cleared and the fire cover is in place. It states the place, the times, the precautions, how to raise the alarm, who is in control and who authorised it. Keep a copy on display at the work.

12 **Work under the permit**

Do only the cutting, grinding, welding or heating the permit covers. Grinding sparks are hot work too. Keep the fire watcher on duty during the work and through every break. Stop hot work two hours before the end of the working day.

13 **Shut down the gas set**

Shut off the gas at the cylinder when the cutting finishes. Purge the hoses, then stow the cylinders.

14 **Complete the fire watch before handback**

Keep a continuous fire watch for at least an hour after hot work stops, then make at least one more check two hours after finishing. Inspect behind walls, below floors and in voids before closing the permit. Have the detector zone put back on as soon as the work stops, and sign off the permit.

15 **Clear and hand back the area**

Remove tools, waste and unused materials. Check the area is clean and ready to use. Tell the customer or whoever runs the site when the work is complete.

Risk assessment

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Controls in place
People entering the work area or tripping over materials Step 1	Workers, occupants and visitors	Mark or barrier the active work area. Store tools and materials away from access routes.
Hitting a live cable or gas pipe causes shock, fire or gas escape Step 2	The person doing the work and everyone nearby	Check again wherever the work moves. If you hit something, stop, keep clear and report it.
Back and shoulder injury from carrying heavy or long items Step 3	Everyone handling materials	Use a trolley or sack truck on the flat where the load suits one. Where the work is up a level, hand items up or hoist them. Never carry them up a ladder.
Explosive vapour or toxic fume comes from contamination or former contents Step 4	The operator and anyone nearby	Stop if the former contents are unknown or unsafe. Use the agreed fume control and RPE for the metal.
Cutting into a live cable or conduit gives a shock, a flash burn or starts a fire Step 5	The person cutting and anyone nearby	Only the person who locked it off takes the lock off. Prove the tester on a known live source before and after.

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Controls in place
Sparks, hot metal or slag starts a fire Step 6	Everyone in and near the work area	Sparks can travel a long way and start fires in other rooms: check the routes they can take. Put a cold method first if the job can be done without heat.
Fire or explosion from an unsafe gas set Step 7	The operator and nearby workers	Use the correct hose, regulator and coupler for each gas. Withdraw damaged equipment from use.
Flashback travels through the hoses to the cylinders Step 8	The operator and everyone nearby	Stop and evacuate if a flashback makes a cylinder hot or vibrate. Use the arresters specified for the gas equipment.
Leaking fuel gas or oxygen causes fire or explosion Step 9	The operator and nearby workers	Close the cylinders and repair the defect before use. Do not use oil or grease on oxygen fittings.
Flame or hot slag burns someone or lands out of sight Step 10	The operator, fire watch and people nearby	Keep the hot-work route under control. Keep the hose run clear of the slag path.
Hot work starts before the fire precautions are in place Step 11	Everyone in and near the work area	No permit, no hot work. A new shift or a new place needs a new permit.
A fire takes hold unseen during the work or a break Step 12	Everyone in and near the work area	The fire watcher raises the alarm first, and tackles a fire only if it is safe. Stop and get the permit changed if the job or the place changes.
Gas left under pressure leaks or feeds a fire Step 13	The operator and everyone nearby	Tell the fire service on arrival where any cylinders are. Do not move a cylinder involved in a fire.
A smouldering fire develops after the work stops Step 14	Everyone in and near the work area	Tell the site when the work and watch are finished. Keep to a longer watch if the site requires one.
Debris, tools or unfinished work left in the area Step 15	Workers, occupants and visitors	Remove waste by the agreed route. Record and protect any unfinished work.