

# Beware Burn Hazards

## *The first step to protection*

Because there are so many potential burn hazards, you need to be alert to their presence. Take precautions to prevent fires and contact with heat when you encounter any of the following burn hazards:

- Flammable liquids such as oil, solvents, and many chemicals often have invisible vapors that move quickly through the air. Put them together with an ignition source—even a spark—and you could have a fire.
- Smoking is a hazard because lit cigarettes or matches can be an ignition source for paper, flammable liquids, or almost anything that's capable of burning.
- Welding and cutting operations create flames and sparks, so they're a potential cause of burns themselves and of fires.
- Hot machines and processes are another potential burn hazard.
- Space heaters can, if not used properly, cause fires—and, therefore, burns.
- Very hot water is yet another burn hazard.

Also be aware of electrical hazards that could burn you directly or cause electrical fires. These hazards include:

- Wiring with frayed or worn insulation
- Overloaded circuits, fuses, motors, or outlets
- Loose ground connections
- Lights or machinery that come in contact with combustible materials
- Direct contact with power lines or other live wires

Know when the chemicals you use are a potential burn hazard by using your basic chemical information tools:

- Container labels
- Material safety data sheets

