Use of oxygen-acetylene equipment is a common daily function of many maintenance activities in the mining industry. Properly used, it is a valuable tool. Improperly used, it can pose significant hazards, resulting in injuries, property damage, and even death. To manage these hazards, follow regulatory and manufacturer requirements, and

**BEST PRACTICES**

- **ALWAYS** inspect the hoses, gages, regulators and torches prior to use. Only trained personnel should use oxygen-acetylene equipment
- **ALWAYS** keep combustible materials away from the work area when using oxygen and acetylene equipment
- **ALWAYS** install a flash arrester at both ends of the hose connections
- **ALWAYS** inspect and purge each of the cylinder valves before attaching the regulators
- **ALWAYS** verify the adjusting screw is closed (turn counter-clockwise) before opening the cylinder valve
- **NEVER** stand in front of the regulator when opening a cylinder valve
- **ALWAYS** open cylinder valves s-l-o-w-l-y. Oxygen – open fully
  Acetylene – open approximately ¼ - ½ turn
- **NEVER** compress acetylene (set gage) above 15 psig.
- **ALWAYS** purge the oxygen and acetylene lines individually before lighting the torch.
- **ALWAYS** light the acetylene before opening the oxygen line
- **NEVER** use oil or grease on oxygen and acetylene fittings
- **NEVER** use oxygen as a substitute for compressed air

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