



# Basic Rules for Shop Safety

Please take the time to read these rules and commit the concepts to memory. You should ALWAYS bring your own earplugs and safety glasses to any meetings/classes where demonstrations may take place.

While all rules are intended to provide a safe working and learning environment for you individually, the rules in **RED** are rules for the safety of ALL. Violation of those rules may result in the request to leave the shop and/or class for a period of time determined by the shop leader.

1. Proper clothing - wear long cuffless pants and boots or high shoes. Pants should overlap shoe tops to prevent sparks or hot metal from falling into shoes. Cotton denim clothing is best.
2. SAFETY GLASSES or a face shield is required in the shop.
3. **NO intoxicants**
4. **NO horseplay**
5. **ALWAYS lay hot metal under the forge if it is being allowed to air cool. This reduces the chances of someone touching it.**
6. NEVER grab hold of metal in a shop unless you know it is cold. Metal can LOOK cold and still be at 500° Fahrenheit. If there is any doubt, test the temperature by passing the back of your hand near the metal before you touch it.
7. Always use tongs that fit the work. Don't hammer on work that is not tightly held.
8. **If you need to move through the shop with heated work, warn others of your intent by loudly saying, "Hot Metal!"**
9. **ALWAYS pick up cooled pieces of hot metal that have been cut off and fall to the floor.**
10. Wear gloves when applying hot oil finishes. The oil usually soaks through the rag and onto the hand.
11. Wear gloves when hot rasping. The rasp can grab and slip, very easily causing a burn.
12. **Give others room to work. Don't crowd around someone who is working hot metal; especially stay on the far side of the anvil from the person working. Hot metal is constantly moved between the fire, anvil and vise – so stay out of that area.**
13. Protect your hearing. Wear earplugs or other approved hearing protection devices.
14. **Cover vises with a rag or towel when not in use. Vises will retain heat; therefore, a rag or towel, preferably damp, will signify a hot vise and help it to cool.**
15. Safety is common sense. No list of rules can cover everything, and minor spark burns are a part of Blacksmith work, but paying attention to what you and others are doing will prevent most injuries.

