

When It Counts, We've Got You Covered



Specialist Garments for Specialist Applications

## WHY WEAR **FLAME RETARDANT** WORK WEAR?

**Because wearing it can literally mean the difference between life and death!**

Sadly, workplace accidents do occur. Exposure to heat or flame, in particular by flash fire or electric arc, can happen in an instant and without warning. By wearing flame retardant work wear, you're provided those vital seconds to react and escape the hazard without your clothing, and yourself, continuing to burn.

Standard work clothing normally consists of garments made from natural fibres (such as cotton) or a blend of synthetic and natural fibres (such as polyester/cotton). Once standard work clothing comes into contact with a flame source or intense heat it ignites, continuing to burn or smoulder until aggressively extinguished. The continuation of garments burning, even when the wearer has escaped the initial hazard, presents serious consequences for the wearer since it intensifies the size and degree of burn injury sustained. Synthetic content, such as polyester, may melt and stick to the wearer further compounding burn injury.

Clothing in the workplace can become ignited due to numerous hazards including exposure to naked flame, sparks, molten metals and electrical arc. Hazardous environments exist also where flammable liquids and chemicals, combustible dusts, vapours and gases are present.

Flame retardant garments do not allow this continuation of burn. When exposed to the initial fire/heat contact, flame retardant garments either will not support combustion or self-extinguish upon removal from this flame/heat source. There is no prolonged burning and the potential for burn injury is contained to the area of contact/ignition/exposure and those areas not covered by the flame retardant garments themselves. It should be emphasised here that clothing made from 100% cotton are not flame retardant. Cotton burns and will continue to burn until aggressively extinguished.



### What are Your Flame Retardant Work Wear Requirements?

Employers are governed by regulated occupational health and safety obligations, industry norms and corporate safety guidelines. Other than these terms, a risk assessment by the respective employer will determine the need for flame retardant clothing. Where there is the potential of exposure to an ignition hazard, flame retardant garments should be worn.

The S&H Protex® Industrial Range of garments provides a cost effective solution to your workplace safety requirements. Not only do they offer flame retardant protection, but also high levels of comfort and functionality to meet the needs of today's work place.



### What Are You Wearing at Work?



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