

Compressed Gas Cylinders Safety Rules**General**

Compressed gas cylinders are found in many workshops, hospitals, laboratories and tradesmen vehicles to name a few. Regardless of how many and what type of gas cylinders you have their storage and use pose a serious potential hazard for all employees who may be in the vicinity of or who may handle gas cylinders.

Manager's Responsibility

It is the responsibility of supervisory personnel where gas cylinders are used to see that the all safety rules are observed. They are also responsible to see that all employees under their supervision who use gas cylinders have been trained in the safe methods for storage, handling, and use of compressed gas cylinders.

Handling and Use

- ✓ Secure all cylinders by a chain, strap, or on a cylinder trolley (regardless of tank size)
- ✓ Report/replace all cylinders in questionable condition
- ✓ Label all cylinders with contents and stage of use (e.g., "full," "in use," "empty")
- ✓ Use gas cylinders in well ventilated areas only
- ✓ Do not strike or allow cylinders to strike against one another
- ✓ Keep cylinders away from sparks, flames, or radiant heat
- ✓ Replace the cylinder cap when cylinders are not in use or when a regulator is not attached
- ✓ A proper gas regulator is required during use; improvised adapters are not allowed
- ✓ Release pressure and close the cylinder valve at the end of the day's use
- ✓ Handle empty cylinders with the same care as full cylinders

Moving cylinders

- ✓ Move cylinders only on a cylinder trolley designed for such purpose
- ✓ Do not handle more than one cylinder at a time unless a cylinder trolley designed for such purpose is utilized

Storage

- ✓ Store in a cool, well ventilated and protected area, away from emergency exits
- ✓ Do not store corrosive gases for more than 6 months
- ✓ Store cylinders by compatibility (e.g., acetylene away from oxygen)

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