
Let's Talk Safety

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Compressed Gases

Compressed gas cylinders can pose serious hazards. Their contents can present chemical hazards (flammable, toxic, corrosive) and the cylinders could present a physical hazard.



Moving Cylinders

- Valve protection caps must be in place when compressed gas cylinders are moved.
- Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position on an approved carrier while moving.
- Never roll a cylinder to move it.
- Cylinders should never be stored horizontally in a vehicle.
- Cylinders cannot be transported in passenger compartments.
- Only welding gases can be transported on college vehicles under DOT materials of trade provisions.

Handling

- Use only approved spark igniters to light torches.
- Cylinders must be secured at all times during use
- If a leak develops in a cylinder and it cannot be immediately corrected, move the cylinder to a safe location outside the building if possible and contact the Public Safety (ext. 1911).
- Keep oxygen and flammable gas regulators in proper working order and a wrench in position on the acetylene valve when in use.

Storage

- Cylinders must be protected from weather, and secured to prevent falling or rolling at all times while in storage.
- Maintain all manufacturer labels.
- Cylinders must be chained individually unless requirements for nesting cylinders are met.
- Valve protection caps must be in place when compressed gas cylinders are stored.
- Close cylinder valves and replace valve protection caps when work is complete and when cylinders are empty or moved.
- Keep cylinders at a safe distance or shielded from welding or cutting operations.
- Do not place cylinders where they can contact an electrical circuit.
- Cylinders must not be taken into a confined space without special permission.
- If not connected to a manifold for immediate use, separate oxygen and flammable gas cylinders by 20-feet or a 5-foot high 30-minute fire rated barrier.
- Make sure that contractors do not leave behind partially filled or empty cylinders. They must remove them from the site.



Group Discussion Topics

- How are your gas cylinders stored? Are they properly secured at the end of each shift?
- Do you have empty or unwanted cylinders around your facilities? If so contact the compressed gas vendor or EH&S to determine proper disposal methods.
- Discuss how you could be injured by cylinders in your workplace and how this could be prevented.