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**TOOLBOX TALK**

# COMPRESS GAS CYLINDERS



When storing cylinders secure them in an upright position.



Before a regulator valve is connected, the valve should be opened slightly and closed immediately to clear the valve of dust or dirt. Stand to the side when doing this.

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

## Transportation

- Valve protection caps must be in place when compressed gas cylinders are transported.
- Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position on an approved carrier while being transported.
- Cylinders should never be stored horizontally in a vehicle.

## Handling

- Use only approved spark igniters to light torches.
- 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 fire department.
- Keep oxygen and flammable gas regulators in proper working order and a wrench in position on the acetylene valve when in use.

## Storage

- 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 or stored in confined spaces, including sheds, gang boxes and office/storage trailers.
- Do not store hoses and regulators in unventilated or closed containers or areas.
- CONTRACTORS: Do not leave behind partially filled or empty cylinders.
- Always remove them from the site.
- If not connected to a manifold for immediate use, separate oxygen and flammable gas cylinders by 20-foot or a 5-foot high 30-minute fire rated barrier.

## 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 FSRM or the compressed gas vendor to determine proper disposal methods.
- Discuss how you could be injured by cylinders in your workplace and how this could be prevented.

**FACILITIES  
MANAGEMENT  
SAFETY & RISK**

385 South 1275  
West Cedar City,  
UT 84720  
(435) 865-8141