

Safety Meeting Compressed Gas



Company: _____ Presenter: _____ Date: _____

Compressed gas cylinders are tricky things to handle. They're heavy; they're smooth and hard to get a grip on; they have valves that can easily be damaged; and, finally, the gases they contain can cause plenty of trouble if they get loose in the workplace.

If you have to move a cylinder only a short distance, you can tip it and roll it along on the bottom edge; but never drag it along the ground. Any handling that causes scratches, cuts, or dents in the surface of the cylinder may cause an accident later. Don't try to carry a cylinder by hand Use a hand truck or cart, and make sure that the cylinder is properly secured so it won't tip over or fall off. Never transport or store cylinders without the protective valve covers in place. If a valve were to be broken off, the physical force of the gas escaping could cause serious damage and injuries.

Treat cylinders gently. They may seem solid and strong, but dropping or banging cylinders can create weak spots that can result in leaks and ruptures. Avoid all unnecessary jarring and jolting whenever you move or handle them. Don't ever lay a cylinder on its side and use it as a roller to help move another object.

Always assume that gas cylinders are full. Even an "empty" cylinder can contain enough pressure to make it hazardous. If a cylinder is leaking, get it outdoors as quickly and safely as possible. Put it someplace away from flames or sparks and notify your supervisor.

Special care must be taken when you deal with oxygen cylinders. Oxygen supports flame, and pure oxygen from a leaking oxygen cylinder can significantly increase the risk of fire. Oxygen and grease or oil make a dangerous combination. Don't handle oxygen cylinders with greasy or oily hands. Never use oxygen as a substitute for compressed air to power pneumatic tools. The tools generally have lubricating oil in them, and the combination of the oil, pure oxygen, the pres-sure, and a little heat can cause an explosion.

Gas cylinders are well made, and they are safe if handled properly. Just because they can be safe doesn't mean that they will be safe. Only you can make sure they will be safe by handling them carefully and using them properly.

Employee Signatures

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