

Safe Handling of Compressed Gas Cylinders Used for Cutting and Welding

For inquiries regarding this safety alert, contact the HSEQ department at 985-868-1950

While this event did not occur at a Chet Morrison Contractors' facility, we thank the American Equity Underwriters for sharing this safety bulletin throughout our industry.

Safety/Compliance Tips

A workman was unloading cylinders from a delivery truck. On one cylinder the valve was not protected by a cover. The workman rolled this cylinder to the hydraulic tailgate lift. Just as he stepped onto the tailgate, the cylinder slipped from his grasp and fell. The valve struck the ground and broke off. The full cylinder shot up like a rocket and smashed the workman's face as it headed for the wild blue yonder. The cylinder was found a quarter of a mile away from the job! The workman died a few hours later in a hospital. Cylinders have been known to plow through brick walls.

BEFORE MOVING CYLINDERS

Prior to moving any compressed gas cylinder:

- Ensure the valve is closed
- Remove regulators from the cylinder
- Make sure the protective valve cover (cap) is in place and secure
- If two or more cylinders are frozen together in cold weather use warm water to free them; never use pry bars or open flames

WHEN MOVING CYLINDERS

During the movement of compressed gas cylinders:

- Double check to ensure the protective cover is in place
- When moving a cylinder on the same level for a short distance, tilt the cylinder and then roll it on the bottom edge to the intended site
- Take care not to drop the cylinder or strike other objects
- When hoisting or lowering, use a cradle, pallet, or similar device and ensure the cylinders are securely fastened
- Never use choker slings or magnets for hoisting
- Always keep acetylene cylinders in an upright position; never lay them on their sides

Applicable OSHA Compliance Information:	
General Industry:	1910 Subpart H 910.253
Shipyards:	1915.55
Marine Terminals:	1917.153
Construction:	1926.350



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USE OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

When compressed gas cylinders are in use:

- Always ensure they are upright
- Always ensure they are secured from falling over in a cart or with a non-flammable device (chain, wire rope) to a stationary object
- Ensure regulators are properly functioning and do not have broken components
- Never take fuel gas or oxygen cylinders into enclosed or confined spaces – keep them on outside decks or on docks
- Protect the cylinders from hot slag, flames, or other hot material
- Close valves and bleed regulators after using

STORAGE OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

Store compressed gas cylinders:

- In a dry, well-ventilated area
- Away from heat producing sources
- Fuel gas and oxygen cylinders must be separated at least by 20 feet or have at least a 5 foot tall barrier with a fire-resistant rating of one-half hour between them
- Storage of fuel gas and oxygen cylinders on carts requires the a one-half hour fire-resistant rating barrier (See the barrier in the photo)
- Empty cylinders must be handled and separated in the same manner as full cylinders
- Always store acetylene cylinders in an upright manner; never on their sides



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