



HARVARD

Campus Services

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Date: 10/6/08

Toolbox Talk #4

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

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-feet 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 EHSEM 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.



Storage: Cylinders must be secured to prevent tipping.



Transportation- Use appropriate carts for transporting cylinders

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