

STORING OXYGEN, ACETYLENE AND OTHER HAZARDOUS GASES

HOW HAZARDOUS GASES ARE STORED IS VITAL TO MAINTAINING SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE.

- **PROPER STORING OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS**
- **HOW TO PROPERLY MOVE CYLINDERS**
- **WHAT TO DO WITH EMPTY OR OUT OF SERVICE CYLINDER**



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

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STORING COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

- Check your fire code for guidelines regarding the storage of flammable gas cylinders.
- Store cylinders in a clearly identified, dry, well-ventilated storage area that is not exposed to heat or direct sun, and away from doorways, aisles, elevators and stairs.
- Post "no smoking" signs in the area.
- Store cylinders, both empty and full, in the upright position and secure with an insulated chain or non-conductive belt.
- During storage, close the cylinder valves with the protective caps in place.
- With outside storage, place on a fire-proof surface and enclose in a tamper-proof enclosure.
- Protect cylinders from contact with ground, ice, snow, water, salt, corrosion and high temperatures.
- Protect cylinders from falling. Use a chain or adequate system. Consider securing each cylinder separately to prevent other cylinders from falling when items are removed from storage.
- Store oxygen cylinders and fuel gas cylinders separately and in appropriate locations.
- Cylinders must be stored away from flammable and combustible liquids, and from materials that ignite easily (wood, paper, oil, grease, etc.).

HOW TO MOVE ANY CYLINDER

- First, close the cylinder valve, remove the regulator, and replace the valve protection cap and hand tighten before moving a cylinder.
- Move cylinders with appropriate trolleys and secure the cylinders in an upright position.
- Use proper lifting cradles or a suitable platform when hoisting cylinders by a crane or other hoisting mechanism.
- Secure cylinders in a secured upright position when cylinders are transported by motor vehicle.
- Use a strap to secure cylinders prior to moving them.
- Once the cylinder has been moved to its location, always be sure to secure with a strap or rope to prevent it from falling over.

DO NOT

- Do not lift a cylinder by the valve cap. Never sling with ropes or chains or lift with electromagnets.
- Do not drag, slide, or drop cylinders. They can be rolled for short distances on their base.
- Do not allow the cylinders to strike each other violently.
- Never place cylinders on their sides as rollers to move equipment.
- Do not lay acetylene cylinders on their sides. If an acetylene tank has accidentally been left on its side, set it upright for at least one hour before it is used.

WHAT TO DO WITH EMPTY OR OUT OF SERVICE CYLINDERS?

- Mark / label them as "Empty Cylinder" and store empty cylinders away from full cylinders.
- Return empties to the supplier.
- Remove regulators when not in use and store these away from grease and oil. Put protective caps on the fittings when in storage.
- Keep cylinders and fittings from becoming contaminated with oil, grease or dust.
- Do not use a cylinder that is not identified or if the label is not legible. The colours of industrial gas cylinders are not standardized.

www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/welding/storage.html