

# 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

# STORING OXYGEN, ACETYLENE AND OTHER HAZARDOUS GASES



## 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](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/welding/storage.html)