



LOSS CONTROL GUIDE

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

STORAGE

1. Area should be on ground or floor that is level, well ventilated, and designated/reserved for the purpose of storing cylinders. To prevent rusting, cylinders stored in the open should be protected from contact with the ground and extremes of weather.
2. Storage should not be located in an area where temperatures exceed 130 F. Avoid storage adjacent to heat sources and other flammable/combustible materials.
3. If located within the building, the area should not be near an exits, stairways, or permanent workstation.
4. If located outside of building storage should be at least 5 feet from doorways, 10 feet from vegetation, and 20 feet from flammable liquid storage. Never store inside a dike area containing flammable material.
5. Cylinders should be stored in an upright position secured by a chain or stored within a designated rack.
6. All cylinders should be secured in place by a chain or stored in a rack system.
7. Empty and full cylinders should be stored separately. Cylinders, weather full or empty, should be store with other cylinders having the same content.
8. Oxygen cylinders should not be stored with in 20 feet of a flammable gas cylinder. If closer than 20 feet they should be separated by a noncombustible partition at least 5 feet high and having a 30-minute fire rating.

HANDLING & TRANSPORTING

1. Always keep valve-protection cap in place on cylinder designed for them.
2. Transport cylinders carefully to avoid impact.
3. Cylinders transported by cart should be securely chained at all times.
4. Close cylinder valves when work is finished before transporting or when empty.
5. Never use cylinders as roller, supports, or to store material on.
6. Remove regulator and put on valve protection cap before transporting unless cylinders are secured in a special cart or truck.
7. Do not use a hammer or wrench to open cylinder valve; if valve will no open by hand, remove it from service.

USE

1. Always open the cylinder valve slowly.
2. If possible change cylinder outside in a well-ventilated location.
3. Before changing cylinders or removing regulator close the valve and release the gas from the regulator.
4. If you detect a leak that does not stop when the valve is closed, empty the cylinder slowly outside away form all ignition sources.