

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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Week of 04/5/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

HANDLING GAS CYLINDERS

Compressed gas cylinders are tricky things to handle. They're heavy; they're smooth and hard to get a grip on; they have valves that can easily be damaged; and, finally, the gases they contain can cause plenty of trouble if they get loose in the workplace. Let's take a few minutes and review some of the elements of handling cylinders safely.

If you have to move a cylinder only a short distance, you can tip it and roll it along on the bottom edge; but never drag it along the ground. Any handling that causes scratches, cuts, or dents in the surface of the cylinder may cause an accident later. Don't try to carry a cylinder by hand. Use a hand truck or cart, and make sure that the cylinder is properly secured so it won't tip over or fall off. Never transport or store cylinders without the protective valve covers in place. If a valve were to be broken off, the physical force of the gas escaping could cause serious damage and injuries.

Treat cylinders gently. They may seem solid and strong, but dropping or banging cylinders can create weak spots that can result in leaks and ruptures. Avoid all unnecessary jarring and jolting whenever you move or handle them. Don't ever lay a cylinder on its side and use it as a roller to help move another object.

Always assume that gas cylinders are full. Even an "empty" cylinder can contain enough pressure to make it hazardous. If a cylinder is leaking, get it outdoors as quickly and safely as possible. Put it someplace away from flames or sparks and notify your supervisor.

Special care must be taken when you deal with oxygen cylinders. Oxygen supports flame, and pure oxygen from a leaking oxygen cylinder can significantly increase the risk of fire. Oxygen and grease or oil make a dangerous combination. Don't handle oxygen cylinders with greasy or oily hands. **Never** use oxygen as a substitute for compressed air to power pneumatic tools. The tools generally have lubricating oil in them, and the combination of the oil, pure oxygen, the pressure, and a little heat can cause an explosion.

Gas cylinders are well made, and they are safe if handled properly — but so are guns and dynamite. Just because they **can** be safe doesn't mean that they **will** be safe. Only **you** can make sure they will be safe by handling them carefully and using them properly.

SAFETY REMINDER The "Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program" color code
for April, May, and June is green. If you use this
program, test and color code all electrical cords and power tools.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____