

Compressed Gas Cylinders

How do we handle cylinders safely?

Where are cylinders used and stored?

- Secure cylinders in use with rope, wire, or chain to keep them upright.
- Remove gauges and other attachments before moving cylinders.
- Keep cylinders upright when you transport, store, or use them.
- Never drop cylinders or let them bang into each other.
- Move cylinders on a hand truck or dolly. Never roll cylinders like logs or hoist them by their collars. Use a hoisting cradle to lift and lower cylinders from level to level. Never use a magnet or sling for hoisting.
- Never transport cylinders in the trunk of a car or in a closed van. Escaping gas can collect in these confined spaces and create the risk of explosion or asphyxiation.
- Keep valves closed and cylinders capped when not in use.
- Store cylinders in a secure area, preferably outdoors, away from heat, ignition sources, and flammable materials such as wood or fuel. Don't choose an area where cylinders could be knocked over by moving equipment, struck by falling objects, or damaged, so keep them away from areas such as elevators, traffic routes, and exit routes.
- Never store cylinders in enclosed, unvented places such as trailers.
- Chalk "MT" on empty cylinders to be returned to the supplier. Close valves and replace protective caps.
- Don't store cylinders of different gases in the same area. Keep them separate.

Identify

- existing & potential hazards

[Present talk near fuel gas cylinders.]

These things can take off and explode like rockets. But fire and explosion aren't the only hazards.

Leaking gas can make you dizzy or unconscious.

Cylinders are also heavy and awkward to handle.

But construction would be difficult without compressed gas. So we have to know how to transport, store, and use the cylinders safely.

Communicate & Control

- tell others about the hazards and control the risks

First of all, this is the WHMIS hazard symbol for compressed gas (show image at right). Cylinders are also labelled with their contents and handling instructions.

It pays to read the WHMIS label for each of the different cylinders you use. Don't accept or use any cylinder that's not properly labelled.

Lead by Example

- example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing

Review labels. Check cylinders on site. Are they properly used and stored? Inspect a sample cylinder and valve system for damage, leaks, and wear.