

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Gas Cylinder Safety

### Manufacturing

Hazards associated with compressed gases include oxygen displacement, fires, explosions, and toxic gas exposures as well as the physical hazards associated with high pressure systems. Special storage, use and handling precautions are necessary in order to control these hazards. Please review the following safety tips with your employees.

#### Toolbox Tips

1. Cylinders must be secured at all times to a fix location such as a wall, work bench, etc.
2. Cylinders must be secured at a point approximately 2/3 of its height, using appropriate material such as a chain, plastic coated wire cable, commercially available cylinder straps, etc.
3. Do not store gas cylinders in public hallways, beneath egress stairways or other unprotected areas.
4. Cylinders must be secured individually, i.e., one restraint per cylinder.
5. Cylinders should be segregated in hazard classes while in storage. Oxidizers (such as oxygen) must be seperated from flammable gases.
6. Empty cylinders should be isolated from filled cylinders.
7. Never drag, slide or roll a cylinder. Use a cylinder cart or truck and make sure the cylinder is secured to the cart during transport.
8. Keep the protectibe cap covering the valve. Never transport with the regulator in place.
9. Never leave a valve part way open, either open it all the way or close it all the way.
10. Make sure the cylinder is equipped with the correct regulator. Always use the regulator designed for the material in use.
11. Never heat the cylinder to raise the pressure of the gas. This may defeat the safety mechanisms built in by the supplier.
12. Keep the cylindr clear of all sparks, flames and electrical circuits.
13. Never rely on the color coding to identify the gas. Different manufacturers may use different coding systems.
14. Do not use oxygen in place of compressed air.

**Do not store gas cylinders in public hallways, beneath egress stairways or other unprotected areas.**

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.*

#### For more information:



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