

Compressed gas cylinders

Explain dangers

Compressed gas cylinders can take off and explode like rockets. But fire and explosion are not the only hazards.

Leaking gas can make you dizzy or unconscious. Cylinders are also heavy and awkward to handle.

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

Identify controls

This is the WHMIS hazard symbol for compressed gas.

Cylinders are also labelled with their contents and handling instructions.

Read the WHMIS label for each of the different cylinders you use. Do not accept or use any cylinder that is not properly labelled.



TIPS FOR HANDLING CYLINDERS SAFELY

- Secure cylinders that are in use with rope, wire, or chain to keep them upright.
- Keep cylinders upright when you use, store, or transport them to keep the safety relief valve in the vapour space above the liquid gas.
- Remove gauges and other attachments before moving cylinders.
- Never drop cylinders or let them bang into each other.
- Move cylinders using 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 one level to another. Never use a magnet or sling for hoisting them.
- Never store cylinders in enclosed, unvented places such as trailers.

- Never transport cylinders in the trunk of a car or in a closed van. Escaping gas can collect in these confined spaces, which increases the risk of explosion or asphyxiation.
- Connect and disconnect cylinders in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep valves closed tightly and cylinders capped when not in use.
- Store cylinders in a secure area—preferably outdoors.
- Keep cylinders away from heat, ignition sources, and flammable materials such as wood or fuel.
- Do not store cylinders in an area where they could be knocked over by moving equipment, struck by falling objects, or damaged.
- Keep cylinders away from areas such as elevators, traffic routes, and exit routes. Leaking gas or a fire can block escape routes.
- Chalk “MT” on empty cylinders that need to be returned to the supplier. Close valves and replace protective caps.
- Keep empty and full cylinders separated.
- Only cylinders that are currently being used (i.e., hooked up to equipment) should be kept inside a building or structure.
- Do not store cylinders of different gases in the same area. Keep them separate.

Demonstrate

Present this safety talk near fuel gas cylinders on site if possible. Review the labels on these cylinders with your crew.

Inspect the cylinders on site. Are they properly used and stored?

Inspect a sample cylinder and valve system for damage, leaks, and wear. Show how to inspect for leaks using soapy water or a leak detector.

Check if workers require any special training to work with the compressed gas. For example, anyone who uses or handles propane must hold a record of training (ROT) for that purpose recognized by the Technical Standards and Safety Association (TSSA).