

SAFE WORK PRACTICES COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

1. Do not drop or subject cylinder to severe blows. Transport on proper hand trucks – do not drag, roll or slide cylinders.
2. Do not carry cylinders on a side boom or gin pole unless a suitable cradle or platform is used. Do not use slings or cables to pick up cylinders.
3. Valve protection caps must be in place while the cylinder is being transported and until the cylinder is properly secured and is ready for use. Compressed gas cylinders should always be stored and transported in an upright position. Do not use caps to lift cylinders from one vertical position to another. Before raising cylinders from a horizontal to vertical position, make sure cap is in place.
4. If trouble is encountered with removal of the protective cap or the opening of a valve, contact the supplier. Do not force anything. If, when the valve on a cylinder is opened, there is found to be a leak around the valve stem, the valve should be closed and the gland nut tightened. If this does not stop the leak, move the cylinder out-of doors to a safe location away from any possible ignition source, place a warning sign, and advise the supplier.
5. Never use a cylinder as a roller or support – whether full or empty.
6. Do not place a cylinder where it may become part of an electrical circuit such as an arc welding machine circuit.
7. Where a special wrench is required, leave the wrench in position on the stem of the valve while the cylinder is in use.
8. Never tamper with safety devices on cylinder valves. In case of trouble, contact the supplier immediately.
9. Divide cylinder storage areas into areas marked “full” and “empty”. Appropriate measures must be taken to separate cylinders containing substance which, if mixed, could produce an explosion hazard.
10. Protect cylinders from all sources of ignition, and from excessive rises in temperature.
11. Always keep cylinders clean and free of oil and grease.
12. A small amount of positive pressure should always be left in an empty cylinder.