



Toolbox Talks

Compressed Gas Cylinders



- Always read the label or the markings on the compressed gas cylinder to identify the contents. The color of the cylinder may not always be the best way to identify the gas.
- Before handling, read the cylinder label and the safety data sheet (SDS) for the compressed gas so that you can be aware of the hazards, safety precautions, PPE requirements, and first aid measures.
- If you come across any cylinder that is not labeled, is damaged, has issues, or is leaking, report immediately so the supplier can be contacted.

If compressed gas cylinders are not handled, stored, or transported properly, these hazards can result in chemical and physical dangers for workers.

- A sudden, uncontrolled release of the high-pressure contents can cause a cylinder to propel or spin out of control causing injury and damage.
- Gases released from a cylinder may be very cold causing frostbite.
- Inert materials are capable of quickly displacing oxygen in a large area causing suffocation.
- Flammable gases can result in a fire or an exploding cylinder.
- Oxidizing gases can react rapidly and violently with combustible materials.
- A gas with corrosive properties can cause severe chemical burns on the skin.
- Toxic gases create poisonous atmospheres.

Connect all equipment before opening the valve.

- Always use the correct valve outlet connection. Never force connections that do not fit.
- After connecting all the equipment, point the valve outlet away from personnel, and open the valve slowly.
- Do not use a hammer or a wrench to open the valve. If the valve cannot be opened by hand notify the supplier.
- Only tighten the connections when the system is not under pressure.
- Do not use cylinders that are dented, cracked, or damaged.
- Whether in use, in storage, or empty, compressed gas cylinders should be secured with a chain, strap, rack, or other suitable device.
- Ignition sources, like electrical tools, cigarettes, or open flames, should be kept away from compressed gas cylinders.
- Do not attempt to make repairs to cylinders or valves.
- When work is finished, when cylinders are empty, or when cylinders are moved, the cylinder valve should be closed.

