



Helping to make your workplace a safe place
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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER SAFETY

Compressed gases can be toxic, flammable, oxidizing, corrosive, or inert. In the event of a leak, inert gases can quickly displace air in a large area creating an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, toxic gases can create poison atmospheres, and flammable or reactive gases can result in fire and exploding cylinders.

(See full article at right)

GAS CANS ~ KNOWING WHAT TO USE

With so many different types of fuel containers available in the marketplace, it could be confusing as to what type of container is appropriate for storing gasoline or other flammable liquids.

(See article on page 2)

**References: MySafetyPoint
Technical Bulletin**
www.MySafetyPoint.com

To reduce the fire/explosion potential, the oxygen and acetylene gas cylinders need to be kept stored at least 20 ft. apart from each other; or install a fire resistive partition (with at least a 30-minute fire resistive rating and at least 5 ft. high) between them. Cylinders should always be stored upright and secured to keep them from tipping/falling. When they hit the ground, the valves can break off and turn the cylinder into an uncontrollable missile, causing bodily injury and/or property damage.

Please see additional tips and suggestions below:

General Cylinder Safety

- Accept only properly identified cylinders and do not rely on color codes.
- Wear safety equipment appropriate for the hazard potential of the gas before beginning work.
- If a cylinder or valve is noticeably corroded, the vendor should be contacted for instructions.
- A leaking cylinder should be removed and isolated in a well-ventilated safe area. It may be necessary to call in trained emergency response personnel.
- If the leak is at the junction of the cylinder valve and cylinder **DO NOT** try to repair! Instead, contact the supplier.

Cylinder Use

- Make sure valves, hoses, connectors, and regulators are in good condition; do not use cylinders if equipment is not in good condition.
- Leave cap on and valve closed when cylinder is not in use.
- Regulators should only be used for the gas for which they were designed and should not be interchanged. Do not force regulator connection fittings.
- Use pressure relief devices and safety devices to help maintain cylinder or system pressure at the desired levels. (Exceeding the desired pressure could damage the cylinder or system.)
- Check to see if regulators, hoses, and gauges can be used with different gases; always assume they cannot.
- Never open valves until regulators are drained of gas and pressure-adjusting devices are released; point outlets when opening cylinders away from people and sources of ignition, such as sparks or flames; open valves slowly; use only supplier-recommended wrenches on valves without hand wheels; never use wrenches on hand wheels.
- Keep oil and grease away from oxygen cylinders, valves, and hoses.
- If your hands, gloves, or clothing are oily, do not handle oxygen cylinders.
- Discontinue use of the cylinder when it has at least 25 psi remaining; close valve to prevent air and moisture from entering. Return unused and empty cylinders to the vendor for reuse or refill.
- Mark or tag empty cylinders "EMPTY" or "MT." Separate empty and full cylinders during storage.
- Do not misuse containers (i.e., use them for support or use them as rollers).



AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ASSOCIATION (ASA)

Patrick Prendiville; Administrator
24661 Del Prado, Suite 3, Dana Point, CA 92629
877-487-9696 office • 877-532-7238 fax
www.AutomotiveSafetyAssociation.com

**Please direct all questions
regarding the association to the
administrative assistant, Judy Noecker**

Judy@PrendivilleAgency.com

These are “Safety Cans” which are FM approved and/or UL Listed, and are *required by OSHA* when used by any business or commercial enterprise. Key required safety features include flame arresters, self-closing lids, pressure relief, and 100% leak testing.

METAL AND POLYETHYLENE SAFETY CANS



These are FM and DOT/UN approved safety cans, and are required for use in any commercial vehicle by the Department of Transportation and OSHA when transporting flammable or combustible liquids on public roads and highways (with some minor exceptions, such as if transporting less than 1/3 of a gallon). Key required safety features, over and above “Safety Cans”, include rugged handle drop protection and a lid locking device for transport.

DOT APPROVED SAFETY CANS



Resource: Justrite Tech Talk, Control: GM/GC 11-5-10

FIRE RESISTIVE RAG CANS

Rags soaked in motor oil are not likely to spontaneously combust, but it can happen if conditions are just right. To reduce the chance of fire, it is recommended to obtain a fire resistive rag can, as they are designed to prevent a fire from escaping the container. When these rags are kept within an approved rag can, with the lid kept closed, the fire should be kept contained. Any rag cans with the lids held open, or unable to close, will defeat the purpose of the container, so checking the condition of these containers should be part of your routine workplace inspections.



References: MySafetyPoint Technical Bulletin

For more information on Health and Safety related issues affecting workers, visit OSHA's Website at www.osha.gov and MySafetyPoint at www.MySafetyPoint.com

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