

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER SAFETY POLICY

Purpose:

To observe important safety precautions when working with or around compressed gas cylinders. Compressed gas cylinders present several safety hazards as noted:

- A falling cylinder may cause injuries due to its size.
- The cylinder may become a dangerous projectile if the valve is knocked off.
- Damaged or faulty valves may cause the release of dangerous gases.
- Elevated temperatures, i.e. in a fire, may cause sudden release of the compressed contents or cause the cylinder to explode.
- Pure oxygen or other oxidizing gases can present fire or explosion hazards if mishandled or improperly stored.
- Toxic and corrosive gases can cause serious, irreversible respiratory injuries that may result in fatality.

Safe Handling, Use, & Storage

- Compressed gases should only be purchased in cylinders that are returnable to the supplier or in disposable cylinders.
- Manifold and piped systems using bulk compressed gas tanks or those without a pressure regulator for compressed gases require consultation by a professional engineer.
- When moving cylinders **any distance**, the safety cap must be on the cylinder protecting the valve.
- When transporting a cylinder a cart must be used with the cylinder restrained to the cart.
- Cylinders must be secured with a chain or strap at all times regardless of whether they are full or empty.
- When not in use, cylinders must be stored with safety valve caps and stored in an area where the ambient temperature does not exceed 52°C.
- Storage of compressed gas cylinders must conform to the _____ (your applicable legislation here, e.g.: *Ontario Fire Code O.Reg.388/97, section 5.6*) and shall only be stored in areas that are designated for the storage of compressed gases.

THIS IS A 3-PAGE SAFETY POLICY.