

Compressed Gas Cylinders

Compressed gas and LPG, if used safely, are a convenient and valuable source of energy. Misuse, however, can cause serious accidents and injury.

- **Always** lift cylinders from trucks using mechanical means where possible – **do not** drop or slide them.
- Move cylinders using a trolley. If not available, get assistance.
- Store **all** cylinders upright so that they cannot fall.
- Cylinders containing dissimilar gases must be kept separate when not in use.
- LPG and other cylinders must be stored in a lockable cage in a well-ventilated area.
- Full and empty cylinders should be stored separately.
- No smoking or naked flames are allowed near storage areas.
- **Keep** them away from sun, artificial heat, flammable materials, corrosive chemicals and fumes.
- **Always** secure acetylene cylinders in an upright position both in use and in storage.
- Treat **every** cylinder as full and handle them carefully.
- **Avoid** damage to valves and fittings. **Do not** use them for lifting or carrying.
- When using mixed gases (welding), flashback arrestors must be fitted.
- Oxygen cylinders must be kept clean, free from oil and grease.
- Check that gloves (if worn) are **free** from oil and grease.
- Hoses and fixings to cylinder valves must be secured properly. The use of wires and tape, etc is not permitted.
- Open cylinder valves slowly and close sufficiently to shut off supply - **never** use force.
- If you feel a cylinder is leaking, turn off at the source, warn others, clear the area and report the fault to your supervisor.
- **Keep** hose lines clear of where people or traffic may damage them.

Questions:

- 1 Why should care be taken when handling a cylinder?
- 2 Where should you store cylinders?
- 3 What should you do if you feel a cylinder is leaking?

Remember:

**Not using cylinders correctly
Can have explosive consequences**

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 6