CrewSigned

Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety Toolbox Talk

5-minute read-aloud · Last reviewed November 24, 2026

A full gas cylinder holds a huge amount of energy. If one falls and the valve snaps off, the gas rushes out and can send the cylinder flying through a wall. A leak of fuel gas can start a fire or explosion, and some gases can push the oxygen out of a room. Cylinders are safe when we treat them right. Today we cover how.

Secure every cylinder upright, all the time. Chain or strap it to a wall, a cart or a rack so it cannot tip. That goes for empty cylinders too, because they are never completely empty.

Keep the valve protection cap on whenever the cylinder is not hooked up for use, and always when you move it. Move cylinders on a cart made for them, chained in place. Do not roll them on their side, drag them, or carry them by the valve or the cap. Do not lift cylinders with a magnet or a choker sling. Use a cradle or a rack made for hoisting.

Storage matters. Store cylinders in a dry, ventilated place away from heat, sparks, exits and traffic. Oxygen has to be kept at least twenty feet away from fuel gases like acetylene and propane, or separated by a noncombustible wall at least five feet high. Keep oil and grease away from oxygen fittings, because oxygen makes them burn violently. Separate full cylinders from empty ones and mark the empties.

When you use a cylinder, make sure the label tells you what is in it. Do not rely on the color. Use the right regulator for that gas and never force a fitting. Open valves slowly, and stand to the side of the regulator, not in front of it. Keep fuel gas cylinders valve end up when they are in use. Close the valve when you are done or taking a break, even for a short time.

Check for leaks with soapy water, never with a flame. If you smell gas or hear a hiss, close the valve if you can do it safely, keep sparks away, get people out of the area, and tell me. If a cylinder is leaking and you cannot stop it, move it outdoors only if you can do it safely, otherwise leave and call for help.

Damaged, dented or corroded cylinders go back to the supplier. Do not try to fix them.

Discussion questions

1. Are all the cylinders on this site chained or secured upright right now?
2. Where are oxygen and fuel gas cylinders stored, and how far apart are they?
3. What would you do if you smelled gas near a cylinder?

OSHA standard

29 CFR 1926.350, Gas welding and cutting (cylinder rules)
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.350

SOURCES

29 CFR 1910.101, Compressed gases general requirements: https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.101
OSHA Compressed Gas and Equipment: https://www.osha.gov/compressed-gas-equipment

This talk does not replace training that an OSHA standard requires. Scripts are based on OSHA and NIOSH publications and rewritten in plain language.

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOPIC

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COMPANY

JOB / SITE

DATE

TIME

PRESENTER

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