



g.c.g. risk management inc.

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COMPRESSED GAS

Note:

Compressed gas containers are to be stored in the following manner:

1) Capped

AND

2) Secured to either a structural member (wall mounted, or support column), or on a cylinder stand, or cylinder truck, or roped behind a chain.

This is very simple. But its simplicity makes it an easy citation, which would be difficult to argue otherwise, if *any* deviation from such procedures is found.

Good protocol, which OSHA would like to see, is that the cylinders be tagged “Used” or “Empty”, “In-Use” and “New”.

Some basic rules on cylinder safety:

- Never use cylinders as table legs or to hold up other objects.
- Never hammer, pry or wedge a stuck or frozen cylinder valve to loosen it, and never use a wrench. If a valve will not open by hand, call the gas distributor.
- Do not drop a cylinder.
- Do not allow grease, oil, or other combustible materials to touch any part of a cylinder. This rule is especially important when oxygen cylinders are involved. Grease or oil that oxidizes very slowly in air will burn into flames in pure oxygen.
- Never use a cylinder unless the gas it contains is clearly stenciled on it, or marked with a decal. Altering or defacing the name, numbers, or other markings is illegal.
- Do not rely on the color of a cylinder to identify the gas inside. Suppliers use different color codes. Return an unidentifiable cylinder to the supplier.

- Keep cylinders away from electrical circuits and excessive heat. (They conduct electricity)
- Never strike an arc or tap a welding electrode on a cylinder.
- Keep cylinders away from sparks, etc. that result from welding, cutting, etc.
- Do not use or store cylinders where they may get hotter than 130 degrees F.
- If a cylinder that has been stored outside is frozen to the ground, use only warm water to free it.