EH&S Facts
Compressed Gas Cylinders

What do I need to know about compressed gas cylinders?
Gases under high pressure pose specific physical and chemical hazards due to their wide range of chemical properties. They even pose a threat to life and property during physical damage and/or exposure to high temperatures. The following safety guidelines will help ensure your safety in using compressed gas cylinders (CGCs).

All UCLA affiliated personnel using compressed gas cylinders must follow these guidelines.

How should I use CGCs?
- Avoid using cylinders on transportation carts.
- Never use a cylinder without a regulator.
- Replace regulator with a safety cap when cylinder is not in use.
- Never refill compressed gas cylinders.
- When stopping a leak between cylinder & regulator, always close valve before tightening the union nut.
- Never use a leaking, corroded or damaged cylinder.
- Never strike an electric arc on the compressed gas cylinder.

How should I identify CGCs?
- Label CGSs as per U.S. DOT & OSHA standards.
- Have MSDS for gases used and stored.
- Mark empty cylinders as “Empty.”
- Mark & label gas supply piping.
- Update the inventory of all gas cylinders they are acquired or discarded.

How should I store CGCs?
- Label the compressed gas cylinder storage area.
- Store liquefied fuel-gas cylinders securely in an upright position.
- Never force the safety cap or regulator. The cap should only be hand tight.
- Do not expose cylinders to excessive dampness, corrosive chemicals or fumes.
- During storage, separate oxygen cylinders from fuel-gas cylinders or combustible materials by at least 20 feet. A non-combustible barrier may be used if it is at least 5 feet high and has a fire-resistance rating of at least 30 minutes.
- Cylinders may remain on cart if used intermittently or intended for portable service.
- Double chain all CGCs, or use clam shell.

How should I transport CGCs?
- Secure the cylinder with straps or chains on transportation cart.
- Move gas cylinders with the safety cap in place.
- Avoid dropping and striking the cylinders together.
- Do not lift the cylinders by holding the cap.
- Use a cradle for hoisting—never a lifting magnet or sling.
- Avoid dragging, sliding or rolling cylinders.
- While transporting a filled gas cylinder, use a freight elevator when possible.

Need more information?
Refer to the Hazardous Waste section of UCLA’s EH&S website or one of the other websites listed below.
www.ehs.ucla.edu
www.mathesontrigas.com/index.aspx
www.scottecatalog.com/

06/2009