

# 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 identify CGCs?

- Label CGCs 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 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 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](http://www.ehs.ucla.edu)

[www.mathesontrigas.com/index.aspx](http://www.mathesontrigas.com/index.aspx)

[www.scottecatalog.com/](http://www.scottecatalog.com/)

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