

COMPRESSED CYLINDERS (FIRE/EMS)

OBJECTIVES

- Staff will learn proper handling techniques & practices for compressed cylinders
- Upon completion, staff will inspect cylinders for safety

Compressed cylinders when mishandled can rupture violently, releasing their contents and become dangerous projectiles. If the neck of a pressurized cylinder is accidentally broken off, the energy released would be enough to propel the cylinder through a wall or several walls.

A company recently experienced the energy and force contained in a compress gas cylinder. An un-secure cylinder toppled to the floor, causing the regulator to separate from the cylinder. The cylinder, airborne, traveled through three walls and eventually rested in a metal building.

SAFE USE OF COMPRESSED CYLINDERS

- Store cylinders in an area specifically designated for that purpose.
 - The area must protect the cylinders from being struck by another object.
 - The area needs to be well ventilated.
- Cylinders must be secured; prevented from dropping or falling.
- Cylinders need to be protected from direct sunlight.
- Always follow manufacture's instructions when using, handling, and storing cylinders.
- If a cylinder is damaged, leaking, or in poor condition:
 - Return to the vender or manufacture.

PROPER HANDLING OF COMPRESSED CYLINDER EQUIPMENT

- Treat all equipment with proper care.
- Store in dry, clean locations specifically designed for this purpose.
- Do not use equipment which is visibly dirty, in poor repair, or damaged.
- Maintain equipment pursuant to the manufacture's instructions.
- Never allow cylinders near oil or grease.
 - If cylinders get oil or grease on it, take it out of service until it is properly cleaned.
- Keep all "off duty" cylinders from accumulating dust and dirt.
- Do not allow smoking around oxygen equipment.
- Designate a clean area for work with oxygen handling equipment.
- Do not work on equipment with ordinary tools, use tools specifically for this equipment.
- Never work on or with equipment unless properly trained.
- When receiving compressed cylinders:
 - Check for leaks
 - Visually inspect the cylinder for damage
 - Check for proper labeling

POLICY

Discuss all department policies and protocols relating to compressed cylinders.

CLOSING

- *Encourage discussion about the presentation, department policies, and manufacture's requirements regarding compressed cylinders.*
- *Upon completion staff should inspect all compressed cylinders for damage and other hazards discussed in this presentation.*