

GAS CYLINDERS

GAS CYLINDERS require special handling, storage and disposal procedures due to gases under pressure/pressurized vessels and potentially toxic gases.



HAZARDS OF GAS CYLINDERS:

- ❑ **Cylinders are usually at pressures ranging from 100 to 2,500 psi. Mechanical failure of cylinder, cylinder valve, or regulator can result in the release of uncontrolled energy leading to explosion or fire.**
- ❑ **A gas release may also cause asphyxiation or poisoning through respiratory or dermal routes depending on the type of gas.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR STORAGE AND HANDLING OF GAS CYLINDERS:

- ❑ **Cylinders used on campus must be labeled clearly stating: contents, type of hazard (i.e. flammable, etc.), and the manufacturer.**
- ❑ **Check cylinders for “Hydrostatic Test”. This is engraved on the actual cylinder. The test must be within the past 10 years (expired cylinders shall be returned promptly to the vendor – FDNY requirement).**
- ❑ **Cylinders must be in good condition, non-leaking, with an operable valve or regulator. A closure cap must be in place for cylinders without valves or regulators.**
- ❑ **Secure cylinders by using a floor stand, wall bracket, or bench bracket before removing the cylinder cap. Keep secured at all times.**
- ❑ **Check valve for any damage. Any dirt, oil or grease should be removed with a clean rag.**
- ❑ **Transport cylinders with a hand truck equipped with a chain or belt. Never move a cylinder with a regulator attached.**
- ❑ **Wear safety glasses, gloves, and closed shoes when transporting cylinders.**

REMEMBER:

- ❑ **Purchase “returnable” cylinders where feasible. Empty cylinders shall be returned to the original vendor. Retain all return instructions.**
- ❑ **Do not store incompatible gases together. Store away from heat and in a dry, well-lit area.**
- ❑ **Keep cylinders secured at all times. Use hand trucks when transporting.**
- ❑ **Gases are often invisible and tasteless; leaks can go undetected.**