

# Safe Use of Compressed Gas Cylinders

## Warning!!

- If a neck of a pressurized cylinder should be accidentally broken off, the energy released would be sufficient to propel the cylinder to over three-quarters of a mile in height.
- A standard 250 cubic foot cylinder pressurized to 2,500 PSIG can become a rocket attaining a speed over 30 miles per hour in a fraction of a second after venting from the broken cylinder connection.

## NEVER...

- Roll a cylinder to move it
- Carry a cylinder by the valve
- Leave an open cylinder unattended
- Leave a cylinder unattended
- Force improper attachments
- Grease or oil the regulator, valve, or fittings of an oxygen cylinder
- Refill a cylinder
- Use flame to locate a gas leak
- Discard pressurized cylinders in normal trash



## Basic Cylinder Safety

- Select the least hazardous gases that will work
- Purchase only the necessary quantities
- Select gases with returnable containers
- When receiving gas cylinders:
  - Check for leaks
  - Visually inspect for damage
  - Ensure the valve cover and shipping cap is on
  - Check for proper labeling
- If you notice any of the above, return your cylinder to the vendor so they can return it to the manufacturer
- Proper personal protective clothing and equipment shall be worn and sturdy shoes, at a minimum
- Always have an appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) available and be familiar with the hazards of the particular gas

## Safety Meeting Resources

Keyword: Preventing Heat Stress

### PureSafety Course: Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/EHSRM/LAB/labgascyl.html>

[http://www.hss.energy.gov/CSA/csp/safety\\_bulletins/SB\\_2007-01.pdf](http://www.hss.energy.gov/CSA/csp/safety_bulletins/SB_2007-01.pdf)

## Research your topic and use these simple questions and steps to get your safety meeting off on the right foot!

1. Discuss why this topic is important to NDOR employees.
2. How does it affect me and my co-workers?
3. Review cylinder markings and the purpose.
4. Review proper storage of cylinders.
5. Demonstrate how to properly move a cylinder.