Compressed Gases

Compressed gas cylinders can pose serious hazards. Their contents can present chemical hazards (flammable, toxic, corrosive) and the cylinders could present a physical hazard.

Moving Cylinders
• Valve protection caps must be in place when compressed gas cylinders are moved.
• Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position on an approved carrier while moving.
• Never roll a cylinder to move it.
• Cylinders should never be stored horizontally in a vehicle.
• Cylinders cannot be transported in passenger compartments.
• Only welding gases can be transported on college vehicles under DOT materials of trade provisions.

Handling
• Use only approved spark igniters to light torches.
• Cylinders must be secured at all times during use.
• If a leak develops in a cylinder and it cannot be immediately corrected, move the cylinder to a safe location outside the building if possible and contact the Public Safety (ext. 1911).
• Keep oxygen and flammable gas regulators in proper working order and a wrench in position on the acetylene valve when in use.

Storage
• Cylinders must be protected from weather, and secured to prevent falling or rolling at all times while in storage.
• Maintain all manufacturer labels.
• Cylinders must be chained individually unless requirements for nesting cylinders are met.
• Valve protection caps must be in place when compressed gas cylinders are stored.
• Close cylinder valves and replace valve protection caps when work is complete and when cylinders are empty or moved.
• Keep cylinders at a safe distance or shielded from welding or cutting operations.
• Do not place cylinders where they can contact an electrical circuit.
• Cylinders must not be taken into a confined space without special permission.
• If not connected to a manifold for immediate use, separate oxygen and flammable gas cylinders by 20-feet or a 5-foot high 30-minute fire rated barrier.
• Make sure that contractors do not leave behind partially filled or empty cylinders. They must remove them from the site.

Group Discussion Topics
• How are your gas cylinders stored? Are they properly secured at the end of each shift?
• Do you have empty or unwanted cylinders around your facilities? If so contact the compressed gas vendor or EH&S to determine proper disposal methods.
• Discuss how you could be injured by cylinders in your workplace and how this could be prevented.