

Job Name \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman / Serv. Tech \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Compressed Gas Cylinders

With the exception of our trades using them, many don't notice compressed gas cylinders after being on site for a while. If not handled, stored and protected properly they may become unguided missiles creating destruction in their path and leaving devastation in their wake.

Compressed gases can be corrosive, flammable, explosive, toxic, or any combination of these. Cylinders must be legibly marked for identification purposes. Somewhere on the bottle, usually just below the cap, is the identification code and label stating the bottle's contents. The label has to have a cylinder pictogram and pictograms of other hazards of the compressed gas. If there is an unlabeled or unsecured cylinder in your work area, secure it and inform your foreman or supervisor right away so it can be removed.

You should also be familiar with the hazards associated with whatever gas you're going to be working with or near. Knowing whether a gas is flammable or can suffocate you can save your life or the life of a co-worker. For example, are you familiar with the hazards of nitrogen and what it's typically used for in our business?

Always secure cylinders when in use, in storage, and in transport. If you notice that a Hill Group cylinder is not secured, secure it yourself and let someone know this was a "near miss". When a cylinder is not in use, have its protective cap on. Keep the cylinder away from all forms of fire- and spark-producing operations and electric sources. A compressed gas cylinder should never be exposed to such excessive heat that its outside surface exceeds 125 degrees Fahrenheit.

When storing compressed gas cylinders, keep in mind:

1. Never mix cylinders. For example, don't store propane cylinders and oxygen cylinders together.
2. Compressed gas cylinders must be stored a minimum of 20 feet from combustible material such as cardboard, wood, grease, oil, and paint.
3. Mark cylinders when they are empty, and avoid storing them with full ones.

When using compressed gas cylinders always use the correct regulator for each particular cylinder. Make sure the torch setup is equipped with a "flashback" arrestor check valve to prevent fire from traveling through the hose and into the compressed gas cylinder. Open the cylinder valve slowly and don't use tools to force it open. If it is difficult to open the valve, return the cylinder for a new one. Cylinders that are damaged or difficult to open should be tagged and returned to the storeroom or supplier. Make sure your lines are not cut or nicked and are serviceable.

Never take a compressed gas cylinder into a confined space. Always set the cylinder outside of the space and run the inspected hose or tubing into the space. Remember these rules while working with compressed gas cylinders to reduce the hazards associated with them.

Attended by:

Print	Sign