

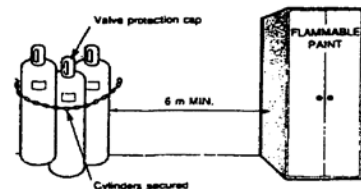
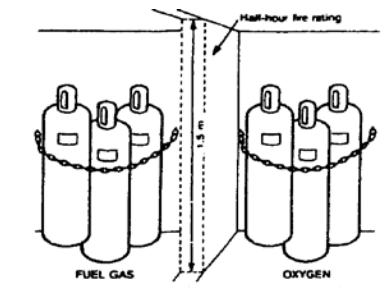
SAFE WORK PRACTICES

GAS WELDING & CUTTING – CYLINDER STORAGE & HANDLING Page 1 of 2

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

Cylinder Storage:

1. Store oxygen and fuel gas cylinders at least 6 m (20 ft) apart or separate by a 1.5 m (5 ft) high wall with a half hour fire resistance rating. Place outside on fire proof surface in a shaded, ventilated area or cage and secured in upright position. When inside storage is necessary, ensure that the room is well ventilated.
2. Keep cylinders away from open flames (including welding or cutting torches), electric arcs, molten slag, sparks and radiators. Exposure to the sun for long periods can cause a dangerous rise in pressure within a cylinder. Cylinders are not designed for temperatures above 54° C (130° F).
3. Keep cylinders at least 6 m (20 ft) from flammable materials such as paint, oil or solvents.
4. Identify storage areas. Clearly post “no smoking” signs within those areas.
5. Keep all cylinders and fittings where they cannot be contaminated by oil or grease.
6. Secure acetylene cylinders upright, whether full or empty, so they will not fall.
7. Ensure all cylinders are marked clearly. If not, refuse delivery.
8. Keep full and empty cylinders apart to prevent accidental part filling of an empty cylinder by back feeding.
9. Close valves of empty cylinders. Fit protection caps. Mark cylinders empty or “MT”. Return cylinders promptly to the supplier.
10. Protect cylinders from extremes of weather, ice, snow and direct sunlight.
11. Avoid placing cylinders where they could become part of an electrical circuit and, through arcing, cause a fire.
12. Store cylinders away from elevators, stairs, doorways and aisles.



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Handling:

1. Handle cylinders with hands and clothing which are free of grit, grease and oil. This prevents slipping and also prevents grit or grease getting onto the nozzle or valve.
2. Handle all cylinders as if they were full. Always secure cylinders to a firm support.
3. Protect cylinders from damage. Keep cylinders in trolleys built for them. Don't drag or slide cylinders – roll them on their bottom edge.
4. When not using a trolley to move cylinders, detach cylinder regulators and fit with valve protection cap. Caps must be in place prior to moving the cylinders. (Valve protection caps must be hand tightened.)
5. If move by crane, place cylinders in a proper cradle or trolley. Fit with valve protection cap.
6. Chain or wire rope slings allow cylinders to slip. Even rubber covered slings can slip.
7. Transport cylinders in an upright position, secured on a vehicle or trolley designed for that purpose. When a vehicle is transport 5 or more cylinders, the vehicle must have a "Compressed Gas" placard.
8. If an acetylene cylinder has been accidentally left on its side, set it upright for at least an hour before using it.



DON'T:

- strike an electric arc on a cylinder
- transfer gas from one cylinder to another
- use a sling or an electromagnet to move cylinders
- refer to acetylene as "gas" or oxygen as "air" – always use the proper name
- hoist a cylinder by the protection cap
- use cylinders as rollers or supports
- drop cylinders – they could burst or the valves could break off or become damaged
- place an acetylene cylinder on its side
- rely on a cylinder's color – check cylinder stencil and tag

DO NOT:

