



Gas Cylinder Safety

Compressed and liquefied gases are used routinely in jobs involving burning, welding and fire- or spark-producing tools.

Workplace Hazards

- Potential gas cylinder handling and storage hazards include:
- Cylinders falling or rolling because of improper storage, causing injuries
- Valves opening or breaking off
- Gas cylinders causing fires or explosions

Causes of Ignition or Explosions May Include:

- Internal combustion engine sparks
- Open flames from any source
- Smoking near gas cylinders
- Welding operations
- Electric power tools
- Two-way radios
- Vehicles with catalytic converters
- Portable generators

Training Employees for Safe Handling

Establish policies based on OSHA's gas cylinder handling safety guidelines and limit use to workers trained to use compressed and liquefied gases. Training should cover:

- Associated hazards of materials
- Necessary safety precautions
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Emergency response procedures
- Appropriate Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Proper Signage

Cylinder storage areas should be posted with hazard information regarding the gases stored. The NFPA 704 diamond with a cylinder indicated in the "specific hazard" section is acceptable.

Safe Storage

- Cylinders must be marked to identify the gas content.
- Ensure gas cylinders are stored in an upright position and chained to separate racks.
- Keep cylinders clear from exits or egress routes.
- Store full and empty cylinders separately.
- Store cylinders in a dry, well-ventilated location.
- Store oxygen cylinders at least 20 feet away from fuel gas cylinders; or, separate them by a noncombustible barrier at least 5 feet high having a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour.
- When storing, always remove gauges and regulators.
- It is recommended to not store cylinders of corrosive gases for more than 6 months.
- Before transporting cylinders, install protective valve caps And ensure the valves are closed.
- Move Gas Cylinders Safely
- Wear safety shoes.
- Use a hand truck designed to move a gas cylinder.
- Never drag a cylinder or physically carry it.
- Never lift a cylinder by its cap; make sure the cap is secured.
- Place cylinders where they will be protected from falling or striking objects, corrosion or tampering.
- Never use ropes, magnets, chains or slings to suspend a cylinder unless it is designed for that purpose.

Source: OSHA Hot Work/Welding

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

Founded in 1925, CopperPoint Insurance Companies is a western-based super regional commercial insurance company and a leading provider of workers' compensation and commercial insurance solutions. With an expanded line of insurance products and a growing 10 state footprint in the western United States, CopperPoint is in a strong position to meet the evolving needs of our brokers, agents and customers.

The company has \$4.8 billion in total assets and an enterprise surplus of \$1.4 billion. The CopperPoint Family of Insurance Companies include CopperPoint, Alaska National and PacificComp. All companies are rated A (Excellent) by AM Best.