



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 39-24

December 31st, 2024

Gas Cylinder Safety

Welding, cutting, and brazing are cornerstones for many daily operations within the organization. In order to accomplish this type of work, the use of fuel sources stored in the form of gas cylinders is utilized.

Gas cylinders are pressurized metal containers used to store and transport gases at pressures higher than atmospheric pressure. As with any equipment, gas cylinders can pose a significant risk to worker safety if used or stored incorrectly.



The unplanned release of hazardous energy, such as through gravity and motion, can occur when these heavy cylinders, that can weigh more than one-hundred and fifty pounds, fall unexpectedly. Furthermore, if the cylinder or head is damaged, hazardous energy such as pressure or chemicals can be released.

Recent audits of G.I.S. Facilities have revealed an alarming number of gas cylinders being stored incorrectly. OSHA General Industry Standards set strict guidelines for the storage of these types of cylinders which includes:

- Always keep cylinders in a vertical position.
- Always secure cylinders with straps or chains to a wall bracket or other fixed surface, or by use of a cylinder stand to prevent falling.
- Restraints must be fastened on the upper half of the cylinder above the center of gravity.
- Full cylinders should be stored separate from empty cylinders.
- Storage areas should be well ventilated, clean, and dry.
- Do not let indoor storage temperatures exceed 100°F (38°C)
- Safety caps should always be placed on cylinders when not in use.

Please take time after reviewing this safety alert to ensure that if gas cylinders are present at your work site they are stored properly.

SAFETY ALERT

