



Saskatchewan Health Authority

Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

Number: 55-006

Title: Other Hazards: Portable Compressed Gas Cylinders

Saskatchewan Employment Act:

OHS Regulation: 25-13, 25-14

Date: January 1, 2017

Date Revised/Reaffirmed: December 2, 2021

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Preamble

Improper use, storage and handling of compressed gas cylinders can lead to damage of the cylinder and/or the regulator causing a sudden release of highly pressurized gas. A damaged cylinder can become an uncontrolled object that moves at high speed and has enough force to cause severe injury and damage. An uncontrolled cylinder has the potential to cause death or severe damage to anyone or anything it contacts within its path.

Purpose

To ensure the safe handling, use and transportation of portable compressed gas cylinders

Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- That written procedures are developed and implemented for the safe use and maintenance of the system
- That all procedures that have developed are available for reference by workers
- Workers do not use the system before procedures are in place
- That workers are trained and implement the procedures
- That oxygen is never used as a substitute for compressed air
 - (a) in pneumatic tools;
 - (b) to create pressure;
 - (c) for ventilating purposes; or
 - (d) to blow out a pipeline.

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- That roles and responsibilities of all workers are being met, as well as applicable legislation and/or standards
- Workers are trained in the safe handling, transportation and storage of compressed gas cylinders
- Oxygen cylinders must be properly secured at all times during storage, transport and use. Cylinders that are 5.0L or less may be stored and transported horizontally in holders located on bed or stretcher. Cylinders or equipment for handling oxygen shall be stored in a clean, ventilated area free of grease, oil, or other contaminants. Compressed gas cylinders should not be dragged, rolled, carried or left unsecured in any manner.
- Cylinders are labeled. Storage areas must also be labeled. Never use an oxygen cylinder without a safe, properly fitting regulator valve. Never use a valve that has been modified from another gas. Keep all valves closed when the oxygen cylinder is not in use, even if the tank is empty. If a tank is empty place in the empty area of storage room or mark as empty with an appropriate marking.

- That all workers are informed about the risks and measures in place to minimize the risks when handling compressed gas cylinders
- That workers follow the written safe work procedures

Worker must ensure:

- That they have the appropriate training before using any system
- That they refer to all procedures before using the system's
- Implement all policies and procedures regarding gas systems
- Oxygen cylinders must be properly secured at all times during storage, transport and use. Cylinders that are 5.0L or less may be stored and transported horizontally in holders located on bed or stretcher.
- Cylinders or equipment for handling oxygen shall be stored in a clean, ventilated area free of grease, oil, or other contaminants. Compressed gas cylinders should not be dragged, rolled, carried or left unsecured in any manner.
- That they have taken every precaution reasonable to ensure no spark, flame or other sources of ignition are present
- All caps are secured in place before transporting any container
- They report to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line any incidents or near misses involving portable compressed gas cylinders

Orientation & Training

- Training in safe handling, transportation and storage of compressed gas cylinders

Non-Compliance/Breach:

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

May 28, 2018

December 2, 2021