

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: #414

Subject: Compressed Gas Storage

Purpose and Scope: To formalize a Departmental Policy regarding the storage of compressed gas cylinders. The procedures set forth are designed to ensure that compressed gas cylinders are used and maintained in accordance with all applicable Ohio Fire Codes, OSHA regulations, ODOT regulations and the Compressed Gas Association.

Policy:

Empty compressed gas cylinders should be stored separate from full ones.

When in storage, regulator shall be removed and the protective cap shall be attached.

All compressed gas cylinders will be stored in the vertical, valve-end-up position at all times and shall be securely affixed to a wall or bench using appropriate straps, chains or clamps.

Oxygen and fuel gas cylinders (e.g., acetylene, propane) will be stored separately with at least 20 feet separation or with a 5 foot high, non-combustible, one-half hour rated barrier.

Compressed gas cylinders will be stored at least 35 feet away from any source of excessive heat, in an area away from vehicle or pedestrian traffic.

Gas cylinders shall be transported in the upright position and be securely affixed to the transport device.

Compressed gas cylinders will not be taken into a confined space.

All welding carts shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher, having a rating of not less than 2A:10B:C.

Compressed gas cylinders equipped for use with pressure reducing regulators shall have the gas pressure turned off at the regulator when not in use.

Oxygen cylinders, valves, regulators, hose and other apparatus and fittings will be kept free from oil or grease and will not be handled with oily hands, oily gloves, or greasy tools or equipment.

Only trained employees shall use compressed gas cylinders.

Anyone observing the unsafe storage, handling, or operating condition of compressed gas cylinders will notify his/her supervisor immediately.

Jim Haley
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