

Compressed Gas Cylinder Policy

The purpose of the Compressed Gas Cylinder Policy is to protect employees from hazards associated with compressed gas cylinder use and storage, and to ensure compliance with New Hampshire Department of Labor Standard 1403.12, Compressed Gas Cylinders

A. Employers Responsibilities

The employer shall provide an area for compressed gas cylinder storage meeting the necessary requirements including oxygen cylinders separate from fuel gas cylinders or combustible materials by a minimum distance of 20 feet and having a non-combustible barrier at least 5 feet high having a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour. It is the responsibility of the employer to train employees on proper use and storage.

B. Employees Responsibilities

The employee shall ensure that the valve protection caps are in place whenever compressed gas cylinders are transported, moved or stored, whether full or empty. It is his/her responsibility to ensure that cylinder valves are in the closed position when work is finished and when cylinders are empty or moved, and in an upright and secure position, except for short periods of time when cylinders are being carried or hoisted.

During actual welding operation, cylinders must be kept far enough away so that sparks, hot slag, or flame will not reach them. It can also be protected by a fire resistant barrier, or when the previous are impractical, fire resistant shields shall be provided, as required by NFPA 51B (Appendix A).

C. Procedural Overview

To store the compressed gas cylinder, turn cylinder valve to the “closed” position after use, and secure valve protection cap. Separate oxygen and fuel cylinders by distance of twenty feet or by a non-combustible barrier at least five feet high with a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour.

To move the compressed gas cylinders, turn cylinder valve to the “closed” position, and secure valve protection cap. Move cylinder to desired location (it may be laid down for carrying or hoisting) and secure cylinder in an upright position.

When using cylinders during welding, set up cylinder(s) in an upright, secure position far enough away from the actual welding or cutting operation. It may also be protected by a fire resistant barrier so the sparks, hot slag, or flame will not reach them. When this is impractical, fire resistant shields must be used, as required by NFPA 51B (Appendix A).

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