

Compressed Gases

1. General Safety Hazards Associated with Compressed Gases / Handling Precautions


- Cylinders must be clearly identified with the name of the contents. Color codes alone or wired-on tags are not acceptable.
- Always transport cylinders secured in a carrier designed for this purpose.
- Compressed gas cylinders must be secured by means of a chain to a wall or secure cabinet and positioned upright in an appropriate non-tip base.
- Valve safety covers should be left on until pressure regulators are attached.
- All valves should be opened slowly. Personnel should stand to the side of the gauges (the gauge face can blow out).
- The maximum rate of flow should be set by the high-pressure valve on the cylinder. Fine-tuning of flow should be regulated by the needle valve.
- All connections should be checked for leaks using a soapy solution or commercial product such as Snoop before use and periodically to verify safe operating conditions. If any leak persists, call 911.
- Shut off cylinders when not in use, except when necessary for laboratory operation.
- Empty cylinders should be labeled as empty and remain secured in an upright position with the cap in place.

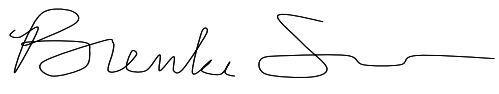
2. Prohibited Handling of Compressed Gas Cylinders

- **Never** transport cylinders without an approved cylinder transport carrier or rack, loose in any manner, to include dragging or rolling.
- **Never** leave cylinders not in use unattended in a hall or other area not designated for storage.
- **Never** use oil or grease on regulators or fittings.
- **Never** store cylinders with or near flammables.
- **Never** attempt to repair damaged cylinders or to force frozen or stuck cylinder valves.

3. Institutional Policy

- For further information on compressed gas cylinders, please refer to [UMHHC Policy 05-03-003 Compressed Gas Cylinders: Safe Handling and Storage](#).
- For institutional [Gas Cylinder Safety Poster](#).

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