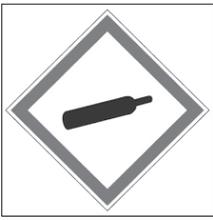




SAFETY BRIEF



PACIF has developed Safety Briefs to help municipal highway supervisors maintain a high level of safety and hazard awareness among employees. We recommend using these short “tailgate trainings” on a regular basis – but no less once a month.

If you need a particular safety topic, please contact us at losscontrol@vlct.org.

COMPRESSED GAS

Information for Supervisors

Cylinders of compressed gas are commonly found in highway garages. These cylinders are most commonly used for welding operations and include oxygen, acetylene, MAPP gas, argon and carbon dioxide. Propane is also commonly found as part of a weed burner or hot patch torch. Hazards range widely and can include physical projectiles, asphyxiation, reactivity, flammability, etc. depending on the gas under pressure. Remember that SDSs (safety data sheets) are required for these gases.

Using these materials safely requires that employees adhere to acceptable storage, handling and utilization practices, many of which are outlined below. Review these with employees to reinforce utilization practices and comply with VOSHA standards.

Talking Points for Training

General Usage

- Never roll or drag a compressed gas cylinder - use a hand truck. Never lift the cylinder by the valve or valve cap.
- Never try to repair a damaged cylinder. Instead, place it out of service and contact your supplier immediately.
- Always inspect cylinders, valves, regulators and hoses before each use and look for obvious damage. Make sure connections are free of oil, grease and other contaminants.
- All gas cylinders need to be legibly marked and clearly identified, always read the label.
- When in use, secure gas cylinders to a welding cart. Never tamper with any safety devices on the cylinder or valve.
- Limit acetylene working pressure to no more than 5-7 lbs. At higher pressures, acetylene can become unstable.

Cylinders in Storage

- Keep cylinders secured with a chain, bungee cords or other suitable restraint to prevent them from tipping over.
- If empty cylinders will be stored with full cylinders, the empty cylinders should be clearly marked as such.
- Oxygen cylinders must be stored 20' from other flammable gas cylinders and well segregated from other combustible materials.
- Do not store cylinders at or near a required exit door or in a location where they might be struck by a vehicle.
- Store all cylinders away from sources of heat, open flames or other sources of ignition
- The valve cap must always be on when the cylinder is not in use.
- Do not store flammable gas cylinders in an area with flammable liquids or in a flammable storage cabinet. Propane cylinders used for weed burning, hot patch work, etc. must be stored in an outdoor shed or other unheated building.

Trainer: _____

Training Date: _____

Attendee Roster:

1. _____

5. _____

2. _____

6. _____

3. _____

7. _____

4. _____

8. _____

If you have questions on this, or other safety topics, please contact PACIF Loss Control at 800-649-7915 or losscontrol@vlct.org.

Also visit us on the web at: www.vlct.org