

Compressed Gas Cylinders

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Most everyone understands the potential hazards presented by compressed gas in high-pressure cylinders. But incidents continue to occur around the country because cylinders are not properly secured and/or protective caps are not in place.

Imagine the energy release if a valve is broken or sheared off a high-pressure cylinder. Some compressed gases may be pressurized in excess of 6000psig. Stories abound about cylinders where the valve was broken and the cylinder took off bounding around the room or through brick walls. Some of these stories may be urban legends, but the fact remains that a rapid release of high pressure from a small opening in a cylinder can present a significant hazard.

These are two important safe guards that must be in place to help minimize this type of incident from occurring.

1. Compressed gas cylinders in service or storage at user locations must be secured to prevent falling.
2. Valve protective caps must be maintained in a secure position on cylinders in storage.

These two important safe guards should be reviewed with employees periodically and monitored for compliance continuously.