

# **Safety Requirements for Gas Cylinders**

Department: Chemical and General Safety

Program: Hazardous Materials Program

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Gas cylinders are normally used as single gas cylinders or as several gas cylinders held in six-unit stands. Each gas cylinder must be:

- Stored in a cool, dry place away from corrosives and heat sources
- Secured upright with bands, chains, or adjustable straps (wire and rope are unacceptable)
- Tagged with the container status: "Full," "In-use," or "Empty"
- Stored with the valve securely closed and capped

If the contents of a gas cylinder are hazardous (or an empty cylinder previously contained a hazardous material), ensure the cylinder is properly labeled as hazardous material.

If a specific project cannot accommodate proper gas cylinder storage, please contact the Chemical and General Safety (CGS) Department for assistance.

## ***Individual Gas Cylinders***

Use two restraints to secure cylinders that are four or more feet in length. Place one restraint around the cylinder-body above the cylinder's center of gravity; place the second restraint around the cylinder-body below the cylinder's center of gravity. (A good rule of thumb is to place the restraints at 1/3 and 2/3 the length of the cylinder).

Use one restraint to secure cylinders that are less than four feet in length. Place the restraint around the cylinder-body above the cylinder's center of gravity.

## ***Gas Cylinders in Six-unit Stands***

When storing six-unit stands (six-packs), individually secure each gas cylinder to the stand using a single restraint. Restrain the stand itself in a cage, or secure it to a wall or to the ground. Ensure that the label on the stand correctly identifies the type of gas in the cylinders and is readily visible.

## ***Using Carts to Transport Individual Gas Cylinders***

It is permissible to use commercially-available hand-carts to transport individual gas cylinders. Use these carts according to the manufacturer's instructions and only for construction or other temporary activities. For safety reasons, never lift a gas cylinder by its cap.

## ***Safe and Unobstructed Access to Gas Cylinder Storage Areas***

Ensure that gas cylinder storage areas have clear access for safe and unobstructed delivery of gas cylinders and six-packs. This may require the installation of ramps, paving unimproved roads, pouring concrete pads, sweeping up loose gravel, and enforcing parking restrictions to allow safe access for delivery-trucks.