

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
CONDENSED SAFETY RULES FOR COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS*

HANDLING AND USE

- Secure all cylinders by a chain, strap, or on a cart (regardless of tank size)
- Report/replace all cylinders in questionable condition
- Label all cylinders with contents and stage of use (e.g., “full,” “in use,” “empty”)
- Use gas cylinders in well ventilated areas only
- Do not strike or allow cylinders to strike against one another
- Keep cylinders away from sparks, flames, or radiant heat
- Replace cap when cylinders are not in use or when a regulator is not attached
- A proper gas regulator is required during use; improvised adapters are not allowed
- Release pressure and close valve at the end of the day’s use
- Handle empty cylinders with the same care as full cylinders

TRANSPORTATION

- Move cylinders only on a hand truck or other cart designed for such purpose
- Do not handle more than one cylinder at a time unless a cart designed for such purpose is utilized

STORAGE

- Store in a cool, well ventilated and protected area, away from emergency exits
- Do not let the temperature of the cylinders exceed 38°C (100°F)
- Do not store corrosive gases for more than 6 months
- Store cylinders by compatibility (e.g., hydrogen away from oxygen)

*These rules are only intended to condense, highlight, and summarize the most commonly applicable safety aspects and do not supersede the University of Florida’s “Compressed Gas Cylinders: Use and Storage.”