



Maine Chapter

Company _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Tool Box Talk: **GAS CYLINDER SAFETY**

All gases must be used in a manner that will not endanger personnel or property in routine shop use, or on construction sites. Hazards associated with handling and use of flammable and/or high-pressure gases include the following:

- Injuries caused by flying objects accelerated by an explosion or pressure release.
- Almost certain death if a flammable mixture is inhaled and then ignited.
- Asphyxiation.
- Secondary accidents such as falls or electrical shocks.
- Fires caused by ignition of flammable gases.

Fire requires three elements: fuel, oxygen and ignition. Any work that places a flammable gas in the presence of air, oxygen, and an ignition source (spark, flame, high temperature) is extremely dangerous. Remove any of the three, and you've pretty well ruled out a fire/explosion.

Basic gas cylinder safety questions:

- Are the "valve covers" in place?
- Are the cylinders stored in any upright position?
- Are the cylinders "secured?"
- Are dissimilar gas cylinders stored apart?

When in a storage mode, acetylene and oxygen-principal ingredients for welding-should be stored a minimum of 25 feet apart with a fire-rated wall at least six feet high between them. When they are in "storage mode," they cannot be kept in the welder's cart overnight-they must be separated.

Never move cylinders (of any kind) when regulators are attached unless the cylinders are secured in a cylinder cart/truck. Otherwise, remove the regulator and put on a protective valve cap. Regulators, on many occasions, can and will break off if they are jostled/bumped/kicked over/impacted.

Always hoist cylinders by using a cradle or pallet. This is when cylinders almost always are mishandled by ill-informed workers, resulting in explosions, fires, contamination, and sometimes death.

Drum containers (or hollow structures which have contained toxic or flammable substances) shall before welding, cutting or hearing is undertaken on them, either be filled with water or thoroughly cleaned of such substances and ventilated and tested.

Additionally, before heat is applied to a drum, container, or hollow structure, a vent or opening shall be provided for the release of any built-up pressure during the application of heat.

Safety Recommendations: _____

Job Specific Topics: _____

M.S.D.S. Reviewed: _____

Attended By:

