

Don't turn a cylinder into a rocket

If the valve on a standard industrial gas cylinder, which typically holds 9–10 cubic meters (320–355 cubic feet) of gas at about 200 barg (2900 psig), is broken off, the cylinder can shoot off like a rocket. It can reach tens of miles per hour within a fraction of a second as the gas rushes out. In this state, the cylinder becomes a dangerous, potentially deadly projectile.

Important precautions

The following precautions should be taken to prevent accidents with cylinders.

1. When storing cylinders, secure them to a wall or vertical support by means of restraining straps or chains.
2. When moving cylinders, use a cylinder cart with a chain restraint in place. Do not drag cylinders.
3. When transporting cylinders, use an open vehicle and secure them.
4. Valve protection caps should be installed on cylinders at all times when not in use.
5. Cylinders should never be dropped, rolled, or carried in a horizontal position as the cylinder valve may be broken off.
6. Cylinders should never be used as rollers for moving equipment.
7. If a cylinder or cylinder valve is leaking, call the Air Products 24-hour Emergency Response number, which is provided on the Safety Data Sheet for respective country.
8. Segregate cylinders in storage as to type of gas and whether empty or full, and maintain a safety distance between cylinders containing oxidizers and cylinders containing flammables. This distance may be defined as legal requirement or as local guideline. For example in US this is legally defined as 6 metres (20 feet).
9. Smoking is prohibited in the vicinity of cylinders containing flammable gases or oxidizers.
10. **NEVER** stick anything into the cylinder cap holes in an attempt to loosen the cap. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove stuck caps. If the cap is still difficult to remove, attach a tag or label to the cylinder identifying the problem and return the cylinder to the supplier.
11. Wrenches should not be used on valves equipped with a handwheel. If the valve is difficult to operate or faulty, contact your supplier to arrange return of the cylinder.

NOTE: Item 1 does not apply to cylinder charging facilities.

The back of this document can be used as a poster for your cylinder storage area.

Emergency Response System

T 800-523-9374
(Continental U.S. and Puerto Rico)
T +1-610-481-7711 (other locations)
For regional ER telephone numbers, please refer to the local SDS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for assistance involving Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. products

Technical Information Center

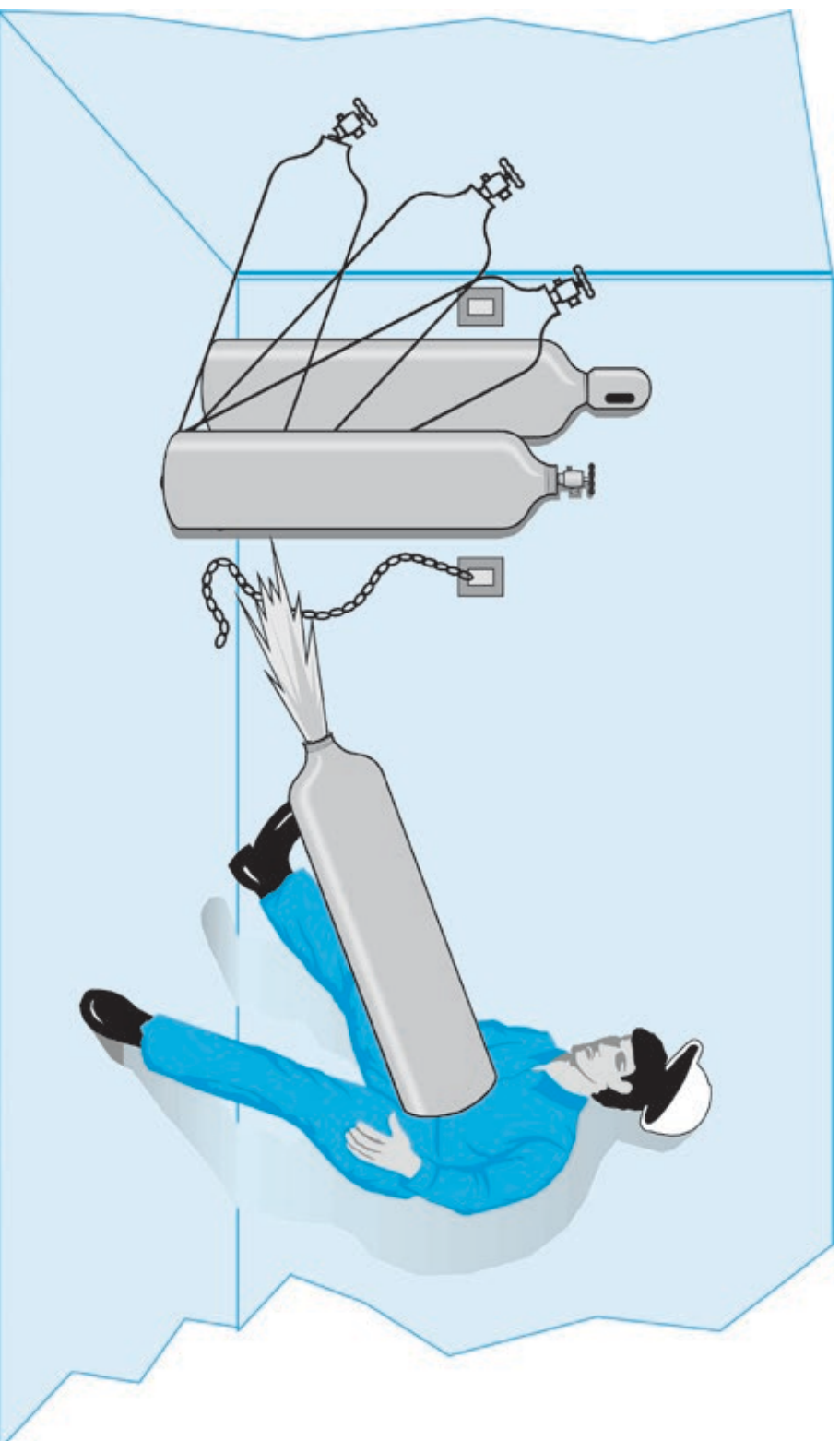
T 800-752-1597 (U.S.)
T +1-610-481-8565 (other locations)
Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST
F 610-481-8690
gastech@airproducts.com

For more information, please contact us at:

Corporate Headquarters

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Secure and cap cylinders when not in use.