



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO
Operating Policy and Procedure

Title: Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety	Policy Number: 75.19
Regulation: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.253 Reference: NFPA 99-2005. 9.4.3	Effective Date: November 20, 2013 Revised Date: March 2018

Policy Statement:

This Policy covers all Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Physicians Clinic's, users of compressed gas cylinders; medical oxygen and nitrous oxide, and provides a guideline on the proper use, storage, and transport of compressed gas cylinders.

Policy Review:

This Policy will be reviewed every two (2) years by the Senior Director of Safety Services, with recommendations and revisions forward through the Managing Director of Physical Plant and Support Services to the Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Operations.

Scope and Distribution:

All TTUHSC El Paso Physicians Clinics

Procedure:

Compressed gases present unique hazards. Depending on the particular gas, there is potential for simultaneous exposure to both mechanical and chemical hazards. Gases may be; flammable, combustible, explosive, corrosive, poisonous, or a combination of hazards.

The pressure in a compressed gas cylinder can cause the cylinder to become a missile if the valve stem is damaged.

Identification:

The contents of any compressed gas cylinder must be clearly identified. The identification should be stenciled or stamped on the cylinder itself. Compressed gas cylinders that are missing a label and whose contents cannot be identified shall be reported to the Clinic Manager/Nurse or Department of Safety Services immediately.

Never rely on the color of the cylinder for identification. Cylinder colors vary from supplier to supplier.



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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

When working with compressed gas cylinders; switching out the regulator etc. the following PPE shall be worn to prevent personal injury.

- a) Safety Glasses/Goggles

Inspection:

Each department that handles compressed gas cylinders shall identify someone to perform a visual inspection of the cylinder to ensure it is in safe condition to be use. Inspect for:

- a) Corrosion, Wear and Tear, and Mechanical Stress around the valve.
- b) Look for damage, evidence of abuse, rust, corrosion, and dents on the cylinder.
- c) Seek professional assistance if you discover a problem.

Safety Data Sheets:

The Department user of compressed gas cylinder shall have the Safety Data Sheets for each type of compressed gas they have.

Handling and Use:

The following rules for using and handling compressed gas cylinders shall be followed at all times:

1. Gas cylinders must be secured at all times to prevent tipping.
2. Chains, sturdy straps or cart must be used to secure the cylinder.
3. Do not accept gas cylinders without clear label and in bad condition.
4. When a cylinder is in use, cylinder shall have an appropriate regulating device.
5. If a leaky cylinder is discovered it shall be reported to the department supervisor immediately.
6. Under NO circumstances should employees attempt to repair a cylinder or valve.
7. Cylinder valve shall be protected at all times.
8. Cylinder shall be placed with the valve accessible at all times.
9. Cylinder valves should be closed whenever not in use or unattended.



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10. Cylinder shall be marked "FULL" when in use, even if the cylinder contains residual gases.
11. FULL and EMPTY cylinders shall be stored in separate locations.

Storing Compressed Gas Cylinders:

When storing compressed gas cylinders, departments shall adhere to the following:

1. Always secure cylinders with chain or on cart.
2. Mark used cylinder "EMPTY" and never store with full cylinders.
3. Cylinder valve shall be in the "OFF" position.
4. Cylinder shall not be stored near EXITS, Stairways, or areas normally used or intended for the safe exit of people.
5. Cylinders shall not be stored near sources of heat, combustible substances, flammable liquids, or corrosive chemicals.
6. Do not store cylinders where they can be part of an electric circuit.
7. Oxygen cylinders and other oxygen apparatus shall be kept free from oil and grease.

Transport of Cylinders:

1. Transport cylinders correctly. Cylinders shall be moved by means of a suitable hand cart and secured in place. Do not roll, drag, or slide cylinder to move from one area to another.
2. Cylinders should not be dropped or permitted to strike against each other or other surfaces violently.

