



FEBRUARY 2019

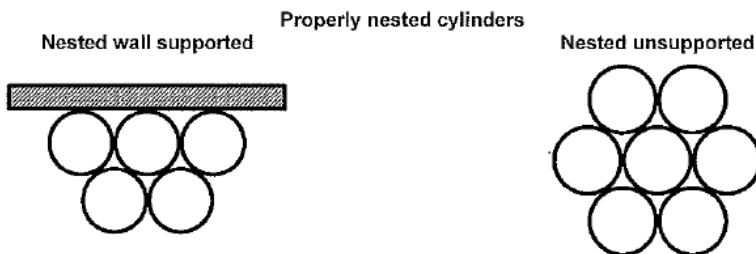
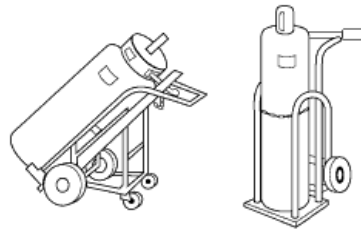
SAFETY TALK: CYLINDER HANDLING



Compressed gas cylinders should **only** be handled by those familiar with the hazards and who are trained in the proper handling techniques. Cylinders containing compressed gases are heavy and awkward to move. Improper handling of compressed gas cylinders can result in sprains, strains, falls, bruises, or broken bones. Other hazards such as fire, explosion, chemical burns, poisoning, and cold burns could occur if gases accidentally escape from the cylinder due to mishandling. Take the following precautions to prevent injuries caused by the improper handling of compressed gas cylinders.

Always:

- Wear proper PPE when handling cylinders.
- Move cylinders using a suitable hand truck or cart.
- Let a falling cylinder “FALL”
- Leave the valve protection cap and valve seal outlet in place until the cylinder has been secured in place and is ready to be used.
- Properly secure cylinders when in use, in transit (2 straps when applicable), or in storage (Nesting when applicable).
- Store cylinders in designated/approved areas.



Never:

- **Attempt to catch a falling cylinder.**
- Drag or slide cylinders, even for short distances.
- Move cylinders without designed valve protective cap installed.
- Drop cylinders or permit them to strike each other violently.
- Permit oil, grease, or other readily combustible substances to come in contact with cylinders, valves, or other equipment in oxidizer service.

One of the more common injuries AWG has experienced is injury to the hand(s) via cylinder handling. As shown above, this type of injury can be prevented by safe work practices. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can also be utilized as a secondary means of preventing injury, therefore; cylinder handling gloves must be worn at all times while handling cylinders. AWG is not immune to injury or accident, however; if we continue to follow simple safety practices we can significantly reduce the likelihood of these events.

TOOL BOX

Talking Points

- **Always use cylinder carts or hand trucks when moving cylinders.**
- **Never attempt to catch a falling cylinder. This can lead to strains, bruises, or broken bones.**
- **Store cylinders with at least 3 points of contact.**
- **Keep cylinders away from oil, grease, and other combustible substances.**
- **Wear cylinder handling gloves while moving cylinders.**
- **Take your time and don't rush, especially when moving cylinders.**