

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Page</i>	1 of 8

POLICY:

This Johns Hopkins policy is based on Chapters 5 and 9 of the 2002 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 99 (Health Care Facilities).

Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations requires that healthcare organizations be compliant with Chapters 5 and 9 of the 2002 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 99 (Health Care Facilities).

It is the policy of Johns Hopkins that all compressed gas cylinders, either in use or in storage (empty or full), shall be tightly secured by a strap, chain, non-tip base or other approved means.

When securing the compressed gas cylinders, one (1) cylinder is the highest number that can be secured on a single chain/strap securement.

When in use, all cylinders must be equipped with an appropriate regulating device.

Special Storage requirement is based on the total volume of compressed gas is in an area.

Partially full compressed gas cylinders containing residual gases shall be considered as full and are subject to the same controls and storage conditions.

REFERENCES

2000 International Fire Code

“Featured Q & A Number of “E” sized oxygen cylinders” *Environment of Care® NEWS January 2003: 5.*

“Hazards of Compressed Gas Cylinders in the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Environment” SA-14---2002
Compressed Gas Association, Inc Safety Alert

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual: HSE 002, 310 and 402

NAPA Glossary of Terms 32003 Spring Edition

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.101

Thomas W. Gardner, ed. *Health Care Facilities Handbook. Quincy: NFPA® National Fire Protection Association, 2002*

DEFINITION

Anesthetizing Location: Any area of a health care facility that has been designated to be used for the administration of any flammable or non-flammable inhalation anesthetic agent in the course of examination or treatment, including the use of such agents for relative analgesia.

Combustible Materials that could be found near patients: hair oils, oil-based lubricants, skin lotions, facial tissues, clothing and linen, rubber and plastic articles, gas-supply, suction tubing, alcohols and acetone. As much as possible avoid these in the area near where oxygen is being administered.

Compressed Gas- Any material or mixture having, when in its container, an absolute pressure exceeding 40 psia (an absolute pressure of 276 kPa) at 70° F (21.1° C) or, regardless of the pressure at 70° F (21.1° C) having an absolute pressure exceeding 104 psia (an absolute pressure of 717 kPa) at 130° F (54.4° C).

Compressed Gas Cylinder- Any portable pressure vessel of 45.4 kg (100 lb) water capacity or less designed to contain a gas or liquid that is authorized for use at gauge pressures over 276 kPa (40 psi) at 21° C (70° F) by the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or Transport Canada (T.C.).

“E” sized Compressed Gas Cylinder- holds approximately 25 cu ft of gas.

EMRs: Environmental Monitoring Rounds

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Page</i>	2 of 8

Flammable Anesthetics: Gases or vapors such as fluroxene, cyclopropane, divinyl ether, ethyl chloride, ethyl ether, and ethylene, which may form flammable or explosive mixtures with air, oxygen or reducing gases such as nitrous oxide.

Flammable Compressed Gas: A compressed gas which forms a flammable mixture when 13 percent or less (by volume) is mixed with air, or a compressed gas having a flammable range with air wider than 12 percent, regardless of the lower limitation. These limitations shall be determined at atmospheric temperature and pressure. Flammable gases do not have flash points. **Also:** Any substance that exists in the gaseous state at normal atmospheric temperature and pressure and is capable of being ignited and burned when mixed with the proper proportions of air, oxygen or other oxidizers.

Flammable Material Storage Cabinet: A storage cabinet which is constructed in accordance with NFPA and BOCA standards.

HSE: Health, Safety and Environment.

“H” sized Compressed Gas Cylinder: holds approximately 250 cu ft of gas.

Medical Air: Medical air is air supplied from cylinders, bulk containers, medical air compressors or has been reconstituted from oxygen USP and oil free nitrogen NF.

“Oxidizing gases”: A gas that supports and accelerates combustion of other materials. Oxygen and nitrous oxide are examples. There are many others including halogens.

RT: Respiratory Therapy

Upright position: Position includes when compressed gas cylinders axis is inclined as much as 45 degrees from the vertical.

PROCEDURES

1. The color of a compressed gas cylinder is not adequate identification of the contents of the cylinder.
 - A. The name of the gas must be on the cylinder (stencil or attached label) and this must be checked prior to using the gas for a patient.
 - B. Labels shall not be defaced, altered, or removed.
 - C. The expiration date must be checked prior to using the gas for a patient.
2. When in use for health care, all compressed gas cylinders must be equipped with an appropriate approved regulating device.
 - A. All regulators must be marked to identify the gas (or group of compatible gases) with which the regulator is to be used.
 - B. Regulators are designed to fit only the threads of the compressed gas cylinder of one type of gas.
 - C. If the threads do not match the cylinder, do NOT use the cylinder until contents of cylinder are determined by testing.
3. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) special requirements for compressed gas cylinders.
 - A. The Compressed Gas Association, Inc. has the following recommendations:
 1. “Compressed gas cylinders, cylinder valves, cylinder regulators, other assemblies included with cylinders, or any other equipment used to supply compressed gases shall not be present in the same room as an MRI device unless proven non magnetic and/or tested and deemed suitable for use in an MRI.”
 2. “Serious personal injury and property damage has resulted from the use of steel gas cylinders in close proximity to MRI devices.”
 3. “If you have any questions as to whether a piece of equipment is suitable for use in the MRI environment, the equipment manufacturer or supplier should be contacted.”
 - B. At JHMI the “E” compressed gas cylinders used in MRI are made of aluminum.
 - C. In addition, MRI has as a reserve supply a regular “H” cylinder secured (bolted – NOT chained) to the wall.

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Page</i>	3 of 8

4. Because JHMI is a smoke free institution (with certain exceptions – see HSE 002), because No Smoking signs are posted at major entrances to JHMI and because we strictly enforce our No Smoking policy, we are not required to post No Smoking signs at the actual location where oxygen is in use. There are other sign requirements listed in this policy.
5. Carbonated beverage cylinders are a type of compressed gas cylinder. Precautions listed below also apply to carbonated beverage cylinders.
6. Compressed Gas Cylinders must be secured to prevent falling caused by contact, vibration or seismic activity:
 - A. It is the policy of Johns Hopkins that all compressed gas cylinders, either in use or in storage (empty or full), shall be tightly secured by a strap, chain, non-tip base, within a rack or other approved means. HSE needs to approve any other way of securing a compressed gas cylinder.
 - B. When securing the cylinders,, one (1) is the highest number secured on a single chain/strap that NFPA allows.
 - C. When a compressed gas cylinder is being transported on a slanted carriage, it must still be secured by a strap, chain or other approved means.
 - D. When small-size cylinders (A, B, D, or E) cylinders are in use, they shall be attached to a cylinder stand or to a therapy apparatus of sufficient size to render the entire assembly stable.
 - E. **Cylinders shall not be chained to portable or movable apparatus such as beds.**
7. Protective valve caps must be in place when “H” cylinders are not in use.
8. All cylinders must be equipped where necessary with a hand wheel, valve handle, spindle key, or special tool to activate the cylinder valve. This shall be attached to the cylinder so that it will immediately be available in the event of an emergency.
9. Flammable compressed gases: (see HSE 402 for further information)
 - A. Shall be grounded.
 - B. Shall be stored separately from oxidizing gases.
 - C. Must be stored in an approved storage area.
 - D. Flammable gas cylinders shall not be stored in a corridor, stairway or any means of egress.
 - E. Cylinders of liquefied flammable gas (I.E. Propane) are prohibited from use or storage inside any building
10. All compressed gas cylinders must be returnable to the manufacturer for refill or proper disposal.
 - A. The use of commercially supplied gas in non-refillable, non-returnable cylinders is prohibited.
 - B. This restriction eliminates unnecessary handling and disposal of compressed gas cylinders and their contents; and assures proper disposal of these materials.
 - C. Use of non-refillable, non-returnable compressed gas cylinders requires written approval by Health, Safety and Environment, 2024 E. Monument Street, x5-5918.
11. Only cylinders constructed, tested, and maintained in accordance with US Department of Transpiration specifications and regulations shall be permitted to be used in healthcare facilities.
12. Certain rules apply to all compressed gas cylinder storage regardless of the volume of compressed gases present.
 - A. Smoking, open flames, electric heating elements, and other sources of ignition shall be prohibited within storage locations and within 20 ft outside storage locations.
 - B. Storage of compressed gas cylinders will occur in such a way that they will be used in a first in/first out rotation.
 - C. Full and empty cylinders must be clearly identified as such.
 1. If they are stored in the same area, empty cylinders should be separated from full cylinders. This is done in order to prevent delay in an emergency in determining whether tanks are full or empty..
 2. Valves shall be closed on all empty compressed gas cylinders in storage.
 - D. Temperature in storage areas shall not exceed 125° F.
 - E. Storage areas shall not be near elevators, gangways, or in locations where compressed gas cylinders are likely to be hit or have something fall on them.
 - F. Compressed gas cylinders storage shall be secured against unauthorized entry.
 1. If the storage area opens on a public hall this means the door(s) must be locked.

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Page</i>	4 of 8

2. If it opens on a corridor which is not a public hall, it may not need to be locked.
- G. Compressed gas cylinders shall not be exposed to corrosive chemicals or fumes.
- H. All compressed gas cylinders must be stored and used in an upright position with the valve end up. Only special compressed gas cylinders designed for use in a horizontal position can be placed in that position. The "E" compressed gas cylinders are designed to be used in the horizontal or vertical position.
- I. **Precautionary Signs which must be readable from a distance of 5 ft shall be displayed on each door or gate of the storage room or enclosure (outside storage of compressed gases)**
 1. Storage locations containing medical gases other than oxygen and medical air shall have their door(s) labeled with a sign containing the following information:

CAUTION
 MEDICAL (OXIDIZING) GASES STORED WITHIN
 NO Smoking or Open Flame
 Room May Have Insufficient Oxygen
 Open Door and Allow Room to Ventilate before Entering

2. Storage locations containing only oxygen or medical air shall have their door(s) labeled with a sign containing the following information:

CAUTION
 Oxygen & Medical Air ONLY
 No Smoking or Open Flame

13. Storage conditions of Compressed Gas Cylinders is determined by the volume of compressed present in that specific location:
 - A. NFPA allows for up to a total volume of 300 cu ft of compressed gas (for example, oxygen) in an area (for example, a nursing unit) for immediate use. Once you exceed the 300 cu ft, you have **special storage** requirements.
 1. The average "E" sized compressed gas cylinder holds approximately 25 cu ft of gas, and simple division will show that 300/25=12. So 12 is the maximum number of "E" cylinders which can be stored without special requirements.
 2. The average "H" sized cylinder contains approximately 250 cu ft of compressed gas. If you do not have special storage available, you can only have one "H" cylinder plus one or two "E" cylinders.
 - B. A compressed gas cylinder placed next to a patient's bed and intended to be used within a short time would not be considered as being in storage.
 - C. **Special** storage for nonflammable gases with **volume greater than 300 cu ft. but less than 3000 cu ft** have the following storage requirements:
 1. Shall be within an enclosed interior space of noncombustible or limited-combustible construction,
 2. Cylinders containing oxidizing gases shall be stored separately from flammable gases or liquids.
 3. Oxidizing gases shall be separated from combustibles or materials by one of the following;
 - a. A minimum distance of 20 ft.
 - b. A minimum distance of 5 ft **if the entire storage location is protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13.**
 - c. An enclosed cabinet of noncombustible construction having a minimum fire protection rating of ½ hour.
 - d. A wooden storage rack designed to secure compressed gas cylinders is exempted from this requirement (i.e. it is not considered to be a combustible).

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Page</i>	5 of 8

- D. **Special** storage for nonflammable gases with **volume greater than 3000 cu ft (12 “H” cylinders or 120 “E” cylinders) have the following storage requirements in addition to the requirements previously outlined in 11 C 1 and 2:**
1. A room dedicated to compressed gas storage or outside storage.
 2. The storage locations for oxygen, nitrous oxide and mixtures of these gases shall be segregated from the following::
 - a. Anesthetizing locations
 - b. Areas involved in critical patient care
 - c. Locations storing flammables
 - d. Rooms containing open electrical contacts or transformers
 - e. Storage tanks for flammable or combustible liquids
 - f. Engines
 - g. Kitchens
 - h. Areas with open flames
 3. Be easily accessible when cylinders need to be moved
 4. Be heated by indirect means (e.g., steam, hot water) if heat is required.
 5. Be provided with racks, chains, or other fastenings to individually secure all cylinders, whether connected, unconnected, full, or empty, from falling.
 6. Have racks, shelves, and supports, where provided, constructed of non-combustible materials or limited-combustible materials.
 7. Shall be vented to prevent the accumulation of medical gases from leaks and operations of cylinders. This storage area shall be provided with dedicated mechanical ventilation systems that draw air from within one (1) ft of the floor and operate continuously. Venting systems for gas storage locations should not be interconnected with other facility air-handling systems.
- E. **Outside Bulk Compressed Gas Storage:**
1. Security Fence intact and entrance is locked.
 2. Signs prohibiting Smoking within twenty-five (25) feet of outdoor storage are posted and enforced.
 3. Spaces are properly maintained (no combustible, very little dust and no excess materials).
 4. Reserve Oxygen system is present.
 5. Compressed gas cylinders are secured.
 6. Depending on structures (roads, parking) in the immediate vicinity of the bulk storage area, appropriate “No Parking” signs are posted and enforced.
14. Use of compressed gas cylinders in construction carts and hand trucks being used for compressed gas cylinders shall be constructed for the intended purpose, be self-supporting and be provided with appropriate chains or strap to restrain the cylinders. Construction carts used in operating rooms need to be grounded.
15. **Anesthesia in Operating Rooms.**
- A. If the sole source of supply of nonflammable medical gases, such as nitrous oxide and oxygen, is a system of cylinders attached directly to and supported by the device (anesthesia cart) used to administer these gases, it is recommended that two cylinders of each gas be attached to the administering device.
 - B. Anesthesia carts need to be grounded.
16. **Education:**
- A. Informal (“just in time”) education is given by both Respiratory Therapy and HSE when they assess the actions of staff and determine that it is needed. Education given as part of EMRs is this type of teaching.
 - B. Formal education on the safe use of compressed gas cylinders is available through HSE and through Respiratory Therapy.
 - C. Two posters “The Sleeping Giant” and “Wanted Poster” are attachments to this policy. It is suggested that these educational signs be posted in any area being used for storage of compressed gas cylinders.

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i> Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
	<i>Page</i>	6 of 8

RESPONSIBILITIES

Departmental Management	Enforce this policy
Health, Safety and Environment	Evaluate requests for use of non-refillable, non-returnable compressed gas cylinders. Monitor the proper use storage and transport of compressed gas cylinders during EMRs and other audits
Health, Safety and Environment and Respiratory Therapy	Provide formal education on safe storage of compressed gas cylinders Educate personnel handling compressed gas cylinders
All Staff	Store, transport and handle all compressed gas cylinders in accord with this policy.

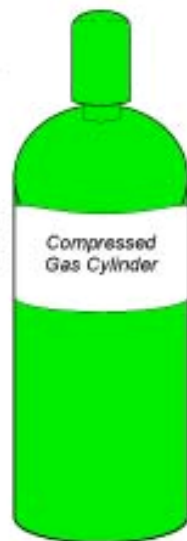
REVIEW CYCLE

Annual

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Page</i>	7 of 8

WANTED

- Known to be armed and dangerous if not restrained by a chain or stand.
- If it falls and the nozzle **CRACKS**, it has been known to go straight through cinder block walls without stopping!
- Good at disguising itself as a mild mannered, indispensable Oxygen Tank.



Additional aliases: Nitrous Oxide tank, Compressed Air Tank, Argon Tank, CARBONATED BEVERAGE CYLINDER, Etc.

Generic Name: Compressed Gas Cylinder

Nick Name: UNGUIDED MISSILE

Special Handling Instructions:

- Must never be allowed into an MRI unit unless it is made of aluminum!
- Only one (1) tank can be secured by a strap or chain.

More dangerous when it is part of a gang.

A "gang" is defined as thirteen (13) or more of the "E" (small) compressed gas cylinders **OR** one (1) "H" and three (3) "E" compressed gas cylinders.

IF YOU HAVE A "GANG", CHECK HSE POLICY # 018 IMMEDIATELY TO DETERMINE PROPER STORAGE CONDITIONS! Storage conditions depend on the total volume of compressed gas cylinders in your area.

If Found Unrestrained, Must Be Restrained Immediately!

Your Reward for Properly Restraining a Compressed Gas Cylinder May Be

Saving a Life – Possibly Your Own!

**For Assistance or Questions
Please Call Health, Safety & Environment (HSE)
410-955-5918**

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 018
<i>Subject:</i> Compressed Gas Cylinders	<i>Last Review Date</i>	09/23/08
	<i>Page</i>	8 of 8

The Sleeping Giant

Many of us are surrounded by compressed gas cylinders. Here is a reminder of just what respect they command.



**TREAT ME
WITH
RESPECT,
I AM A
SLEEPING
GIANT**

GET TO KNOW ME

I can contain very high pressure.
I wear a label to identify the gas I am holding.
My color does not tell you what gas I contain.
I am only one piece of a two-part system. Without a correct regulator or manifold I cannot function safely.

KNOW HOW TO USE ME

Know how to safely install and remove me from your system.
Make sure I am properly secured when in use and when stored.
Open my valve slowly when I am to be used.
Close my valve when you are done.
Know the dangers of my contents, read the MSDS, and follow proper procedures when using me.

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

If my valve or regulator snaps off, all my power is unleashed through an opening no larger than a pencil.
I will jet away faster than any dragster.
I will smash through brick walls.
I will spin, ricochet, crash and splash through anything in my path.

TO BE MY MASTER REMEMBER

Secure me,
Cap me, and
Always follow recommended safety procedures.



Compressed Gas Association

For more information, contact your nearest CGA member:

Health Safety and Environment
2024 Building, Suite B-200
Phone: 5-5918 Fax: 5-5929
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse