



LEAKY GAS CYLINDERS

Date:

TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK

Presenter:



Canadian Centre for
Occupational Health and Safety

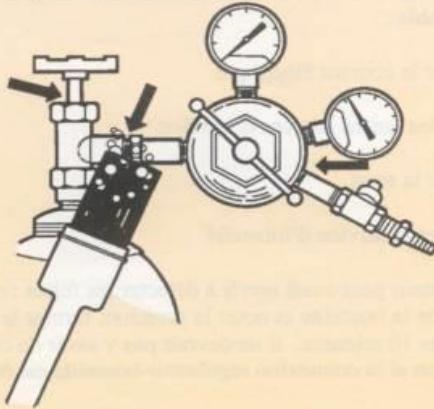
SAFETY INFOGRAM 110

LABORATORIES

COMPRESSED GAS LEAKING CYLINDERS

Check equipment regularly and every time it is set up, for gas leaks at cylinder valves, regulators and connections. Any cylinders may leak. Ventilation is essential.

Use soapy water (non-fat solution), approved leak-test solution, or detection equipment to check for gas leaks. Never use a flame.



If a cylinder leaks and the leak cannot be stopped by tightening a valve or packing nut, close the cylinder valve and attach a tag stating that the container is defective.

Temporarily stop a leak through the cylinder valve by attaching a regulator.

Define an emergency plan for leaking cylinders and for laboratory personnel in areas where compressed gases are used.

If the gas is toxic, wear a gas mask or self-contained breathing apparatus. Move the leaking container outdoors to a well-ventilated location, or place under fume hood. Call supplier and follow instructions.

Do not ship leaking cylinders.

With an uncontrolled flammable gas leak:

1. Shut off electrical power
2. Isolate other ignition sources
3. Leave the area
4. Call fire department

Also use the regulator to detect leaks. Open the cylinder valve and note the pressure. Close the cylinder valve and wait ten minutes. There should be no pressure drop if the regulator/cylinder connection is leak-free.

Use a similar procedure on other parts of the gas plumbing to check for leaks. Should a leak be detected, close the cylinder stem valve.

Some stem valves used on cylinders for low molecular-weight gases such, as hydrogen, will leak when fully opened. Do not adjust the cylinder valve packing nut or pressure relief safety nut.

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