

# **COMPRESSED GAS HANDLING AWARENESS**

Associates and managers should ensure the following best practices are used at all times.

## **What is compressed gas?**

- A material that is stored under pressure in a metal cylinder and acts as a gas upon release. This includes:
  - Propane for Motorized Material Handling Equipment (Forklifts, Clamp Trucks) or cleaning equipment (buffers).
  - Helium
  - Oxygen
  - Carbon Dioxide (Soda Fountain Drinks)

## **Why is Proper Handling and Storage Important?**

- Because compressed gas is under a great deal of pressure, it can cause a variety of injuries if not properly handled or stored. It can also contain hazardous substances. Always read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for important information on the chemicals found in the tank. Hazards associated with compressed gas include:
  - Fire
  - Explosions
  - Chemical burns/exposure
  - Eye injuries

## **Do:**

- Ensure tank content is properly identified by markings. If not, return tank to the supplier without using.
- Keep valve caps on the tank at all times, unless the tank is being used.
- Keep all compressed gas tanks free and clear of debris, carts, merchandise, pallets, etc.
- Use cylinders as intended. Never use tanks as rollers, supports or for any other purpose than its intended use.
- Keep tanks properly chained and secured. Never drop tanks or permit them to strike each other or against other surfaces.
- When moving tanks, have a teammate assist. Never drag, slide or roll cylinders.
- Store away from flammable substances, such as oil, gasoline or other combustible substances.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as safety glasses and kevlar gloves, when changing tanks.
- When changing tanks, ensure the connection is tight and properly sealed.
- Immediately report propane smells, connection issues or any other tank concerns to your supervisor.

Properly secured tank example:



## **Do Not:**

- Tamper with the safety relief devices on valves or cylinders.
- Attempt to repair or to alter tanks, valves or safety relief devices.
- Change tanks unless a manager has trained you on the proper process.
- Store compressed gas near any combustible materials (gas, paint, etc.) or heat generating sources.
- Store compressed gas or other items closer than 36 inches from electrical panels.
- Store compressed gas or other items in emergency exit doors pathways.
- Move a cylinder by the valve or regulator.

***Immediately report any safety hazards or unsafe behaviors to your supervisor.***