

# UAB SAFETY SHORT

## Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety

Compressed gas cylinders are a common and necessary research tool. However, they can pose a risk because they contain potentially hazardous contents and are highly pressurized. Please post the attached sign in areas where you use or store cylinders to remind staff of best safety practices. For more information on proper cylinder storage, follow this link [on storing your cylinders appropriately](#). Contact UAB Facilities' [maintenance](#) team to install brackets that secure gas cylinders. In addition to the listed precautions, users should be aware of the chemical hazards posed by the gases used in their labs, separate incompatible gases, and have an emergency plan so that everyone knows how to react if a gas leak occurs. Store compressed gas cylinders away from entrances and high traffic areas. Separate empty cylinders from full ones and use a tag or label to designate which cylinders are empty.

Purchase compressed gases from Airgas through BuyUAB. Contact [University Purchasing](#) for assistance in purchasing compressed gas cylinders. Contact Airgas to have empty cylinders removed promptly to avoid surcharges for cylinder rental. For more information, refer to the [EHS Compressed Gas Training](#). Please contact Environmental Health & Safety at 205-934-2487 if you need further assistance.



## Handling & Storing Cylinders Safely



- 1 SECURE cylinders properly at all times.
- 2 STORE cylinders in cool, well-ventilated, fire-resistant areas in compliance with local, state and federal regulations.
- 3 PLACE cylinders where they will not be damaged by forklifts, knocked over or hit by falling objects.
- 4 CLOSE valves and TIGHTEN caps when not in use.
- 5 INSPECT cylinders for leaks and CHECK support brackets regularly for strength and integrity.
- 6 MOVE cylinders using hand trucks designed for the purpose.
- 7 REPORT leaks or any damage to your supervisor immediately.

**EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT:**

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