



Transporting Compressed Gas Cylinders

Compressed Oxygen Cylinders are just under 20 inches in height and weighing just over 6lbs.

The most important precautionary information is to read the manufacturer's instructions located on the label of the cylinder. It contains detailed instructions and precautions that must be taken when handling the oxygen cylinders.

To avoid damage or hazard, follow all manufacturer's instructions, which are clearly printed on the outside of the oxygen cylinder. Before boarding a bus, train, taxi or vehicle, inspect the cylinder for cracks, leaks, dents, gouges and pits. Listen to the cylinder for air leaks. If the cylinder is leaking or has any dents, gouges or pits, do not attempt to transport it. Instead, contact the manufacturer for a new oxygen cylinder as soon as possible.

When transporting cylinders, they must be secured in such a way so as to prevent any movement. That is, they should be secured to prevent rolling from side to side and from sliding forward and backward. The Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations require that all compressed gas cylinders be secured from movement during transportation.

It is critical that the valve caps are always properly secured. Any event that would cause the valve to break could cause an extremely dangerous rapid release of the highly pressurized gas, which can propel the cylinder at a very high velocity and can cause very significant property damage and personal injury. If the cylinders were not designed to accept a protective cap over the valve, special care must be taken to prevent the valve from damage or opening during transportation.

Ensure no one is smoking a cigarette, cigar or using any lighting device such as a match or lighter in the vehicle while your oxygen cylinder is on board, as oxygen is highly flammable.

Remove all cylinder from your vehicle immediately once you reach your destination. They must not be left in an unattended vehicle.

Leaving cylinders near a source of heat, such as a furnace or water heater, or inside a vehicle is potential very dangerous. Keep the cylinders in a cool, well ventilated area, away from sources of heat or ignition.

This fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice

For additional information on this topic please contact ACWA JPIA Risk Control Department, Terry Lofing, Administrative Assistant (tlofing@acwajpia.com) or 800-231-5742