Use and Storage of Pressurised Cylinders — study guide

A pressurised cylinder stores a large amount of energy in a small space — and its release can burn, freeze, explode or feed a fire. This guide covers the uses, the hazards, the storage rules and the controls.

What pressurised oxygen is used for

Pressurised oxygen is used for medical emergencies and for oxy-fuel cutting.

Key hazards

The key hazards associated with pressurised cylinders are the release of flammable gas, the sudden release of stored energy, and high-pressure oxygen coming into contact with lubricants or grease.

Storage

Oxygen cylinders should be stored **separately from propane cylinders**. This avoids the creation of an oxygen and flammable gas mixture and reduces the risk of explosion. The **seamless cylinder** allows the **storage** of gases and liquids at high pressure and provides a convenient way of **transporting** gases to the end user.

Mitigation measures

Controls that reduce the risks created by pressurised cylinders include using the correct method of connection and using the correct pressure regulator.

Key facts to remember

- Pressurised oxygen: medical emergencies and oxy-fuel cutting.
- Hazards: release of flammable gas, sudden release of stored energy, high-pressure oxygen contacting lubricants or grease.
- Store oxygen separately from propane — avoids an oxygen/flammable-gas mixture and limits explosion risk.
- The seamless cylinder holds gases/liquids at high pressure and makes them convenient to transport.
- Controls: correct connection method and correct pressure regulator.

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