



PURPOSE

To provide general guidance and instruction on the safe use of compressed gas cylinders in laboratories and to ensure regulatory compliance with WorkSafeBC (WSBC). In addition to this general Safe Work Procedure (SWP), each lab must develop a lab specific safe work procedure unique to the experiments and activities being performed.

SCOPE

This procedure is intended for individuals at UVic who will be purchasing gas cylinders, moving gas cylinders, and using gas cylinders as part of their duties on campus. It is the responsibility of your Supervisor to provide job specific training related to the gases you are using in the workplace.

TRAINING

The following training is required to be completed prior to being permitted to perform these procedures

- [WHMIS](#)
- [Compressed Gas Cylinders: Safe Handling & Use \(Part 1 & Part 2\)](#)

REGULATION AND POLIC

Please observe the following safety information when handling compressed gases, familiarize yourself with the appropriate Safety Data Sheet, and contact your supervisor for instruction on the proper selection and use of regulators, piping, fittings and related connections, leak testing and emergency procedures.

PROCEDURE

1. Handling

Compressed gas cylinders should only be transported by those familiar with hazards and who have received prior hands-on training.

- a. Visually inspect cylinders for any indication of damage or leakage. If a cylinder is leaking, close the valve, place a warning tag and report to your supervisor. Do not transport until repaired.

4. Spills

- a. If a cylinder has a minor leak, close the valve, place a warning tag and report to your supervisor.
- b. In the event of a large uncontrolled gas release, evacuate the area, notify your supervisor and contact Campus Security at ~~727~~599.

5. Decontamination

- a. Cylinders should be returned free from any laboratory contaminants.

6. First Aid and Emergencies

- a. Call 911 to summon an ambulance if there is a medical emergency.
- b. Call Campus Security at ~~230~~1-7599 for first aid.
- c. It is extremely important to have the safety cap in place during transport. A damaged or severed valve can cause the cylinder to become a missile.
- d.