# MEDICAL GAS SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT

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#### Regulations

- Regulations for use, storage and handling will be according to the authority having jurisdiction, or AHJ
- In the absence of codes, the following may provide guidance:
  - Compressed Gas Association
  - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
  - Safety Data Sheet (formerly Material Safety Data Sheet)





# **Gas Properties**

#### Gases can be:

- •Flammable
- Non-flammable
- Oxidizers
- Corrosive
- Asphyxiants
- Poison
- Inert
- Or a mixture



# **Ignition Temperature**

- <u>Ignition temperature</u>: Unique to various solids, vapors and gases, the requisite heat from an open flame source required to ignite materials
- <u>Autoignition temperature</u>: The temperature required to ignite materials absent an open flame source

#### **Gas Containers**

- Lecture Bottles
- Cylinders
- Tank Trucks





#### **Gas Containers**

- Railroad Tank Cars
- Portable Tanks
- Fixed Storage
- Pipelines







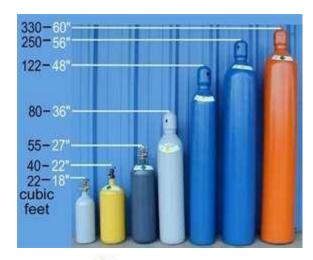


#### Cylinders

•Construction Must be compatible with the material contained

Markings
 Labeling required to
 identify the gas in storage
 and during shipment







# Storage Pressure

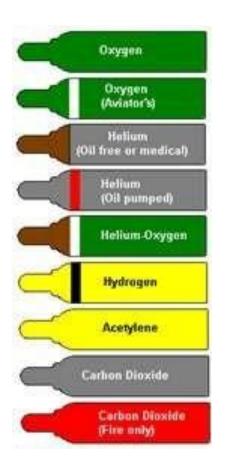
	Storage	Ignition	
<u>Types</u>	Pressure (PSI)	<u>Temperature</u>	
<ul><li>Methane</li></ul>	up to 6000psi	999 °F	
•Ethane	544	959 °F	
<ul><li>Propane</li></ul>	109.7	871 °F	
<ul><li>Butane</li></ul>	31	761 °F	
<ul><li>Nitrogen</li></ul>	2,000/below 200 as cryogen	Inert	
•Oxygen	2,000/below 200 as cryogen	Inert	
<ul><li>Arsine</li></ul>	219.7	(*see note)	

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Arsine has no given Ignition Temperature but decomposes into arsenic and hydrogen between 446 °F to 464 °F

#### Color Codes

- Cylinder shells can also be color coded to better identify the contents permitted into the specific type of cylinder
- This eliminates crosscontamination by introducing noncompatible gases into non-specification cylinders





# Medical Gas Color Codes

Gas	U.S. Color Code	ISO Color Code		
Carbon Dioxide	Grey	Grey		
He-O <sub>2</sub>	Brown & Green	Brown & White		
Instrument Air	Red (USA Only)			
Medical Air	Yellow	Black & White		
Nitrogen	Black	Black		
Nitrous Oxide	Blue	Blue		
O <sub>2</sub> -He	Green & Brown	White & Brown		
Oxygen	Green	White		
Vacuum (Suction)	White	Yellow		
WAGD (Evac)	Purple	Purple		

#### Labels

#### **FTSC Code**

Standard numerical code for a gas indicating:

- •<u>F</u>lammability
- •<u>T</u>oxicity
- •State of the gas
- •Corrosiveness

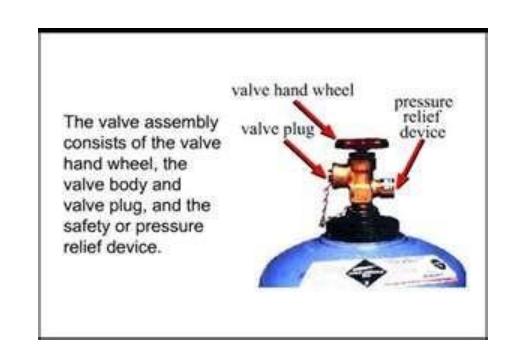




CGA V-7 pamphlet provides more in-depth information

#### Pressure Relief Valve (PRV)

- May be activated by pressure, temperature or spring to permit container contents to escape, thereby averting a container rupture
- The PRV is in the product line

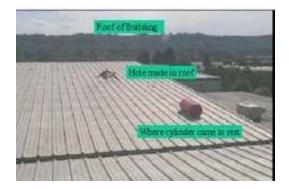


# Cylinder Hazards

- Material Hazards
- Flammability
- Spontaneously
   flammable (arsine, silane
   and phosphine)
- Corrosivity
- Reactivity
- Poison
- Carcinogenic

- Container Behavior
- Frostbite
- Rupture
- Rocketing
- Boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion (BLEVE)





#### Oxygen

- Not flammable
- Sensitizes flammable and combustible materials requiring less input heat for ignition
- In some cases, materials impregnated with oxygen can be ignited with static electricity



#### TYPES OF TERMINAL GAS OUTLETS

Outlets can be installed as flush fitting units, surface-fitting units on booms or pendants, suspended on a hose and gang mounted.

Medical Hanger



Hanging From Ceiling Type Outlet



Ceiling column & pendent



Bedhead Unit





Embedded Type Outlet





Wall Mounted Type Outlet

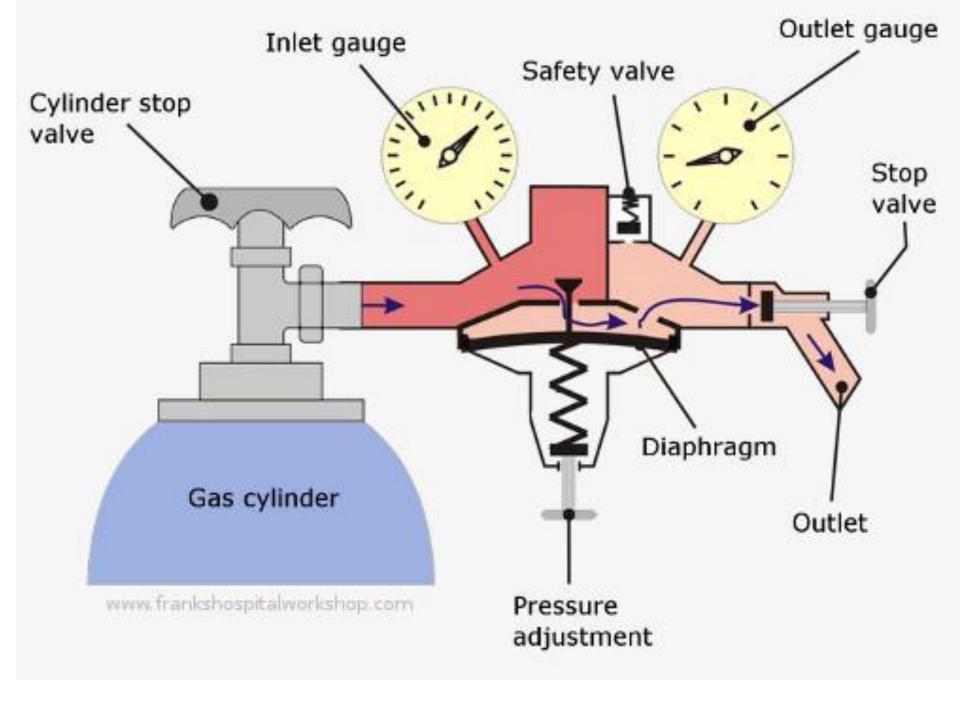




Trolley Stand

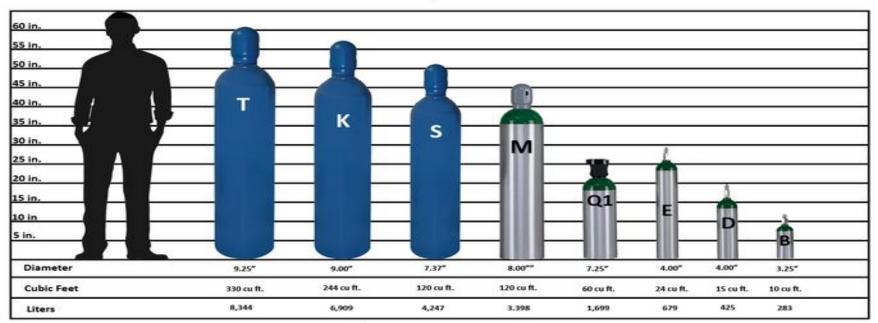








#### **Medical Cylinder Sizes**





GWSCO.COM (516)334-8200

Cylinder size	C	D	E	F	G	J
Dimensions (mm)	356×89	457×102	788×102	865×140	1248×40	1450×29
Capacities (L)						
Oxygen	170	340	680	1360	3400	6800
Nitrous oxide	450	900	1800	3600	9000	-
Entonox	6. <del>7</del> -6	500	42 <del>77</del> 8	2000	5000	
Air		· ·	-	-	3200	6400
Carbon	450	1800	1800		5-03	:=

# Safe Handling & Storage

- Determine safe handling and storage needs based on your industry and the gases with which you work
- Create or follow check lists to best ensure a continuous safety program



#### **Proper Handling**

- Use proper hand trucks do not roll the cylinder on its side
- Provide a forklift cylinder change-out area which maximizes safety for the operator and other staff
- Provide:
  - Ventilation
  - Fire extinguisher
  - PPE





#### Handling

- Take time to plan
   what you are going to
   do with a cylinder and
   how you are going to
   do it
- Always decide on the side of personal safety



This realistic accident scenario explains why safety shoes shall be worn at cylinder handling.



This accident situation demonstrates, that it is wise to use gloves at cylinder handling

#### Storage

- Proper ventilation
- Out of the weather
- Not subject to temperature extremes
- Segregate gas types to eliminate fire or chemical reaction hazards
- Use good house keeping practices
- Post signage







#### **Emergency Response Methods**

- An extraction hood used for daily operations may be used to vent escaping gas from a cylinder up through a filter
- Hoods and vents may also be equipped with a "scrubber" to neutralize various gases
- Some poison gases may be "scrubbed" this way





#### Response

- Do you have a trained team?
- Or will you call specialty responders?
- Will special response equipment be needed?
- Special precautions are required for spontaneously combustible gases such as silane





#### Response

- Determine if you will handle an event alone or with off-site help
- Pre-plan potential zones of harm should your facility have a release
- Practice safety and be safe in handling, use, storage and response to gas incidents



# **THANK YOU**