

Spotlight On Safety

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Helium Cylinders – Safety Guidelines



Before using any compressed gas cylinder, familiarize yourself with the properties and hazards of the material you are working with. Safety information can be obtained from the compressed gas cylinder supplier, Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or by contacting UC Riverside Environmental Health and Safety at 951-827-5528. A list of safe and unsafe practices for Helium Cylinder use is provided below.

Safe Use

- Store and use helium cylinders in a well-ventilated area.
- Store and use helium cylinders in an upright secured position.
- Cylinders must be chained to the wall or placed in a safety stand at all times.
- Close cylinder valves after each use and when cylinder is empty.
- Remove regulator and replace the safety protective cap before transport or when the cylinder is not in use.
- Use a cylinder cart to move cylinders.
- Always open cylinder regulator valves slowly.
- Stand to one side of the cylinder when opening the valve.

Unsafe Use

- Do not inhale helium from cylinders or balloons.
- Do not leave helium cylinders unattended or in an unsupervised public place.
- Do not open the compressed gas cylinder valve without the proper regulator in place.
- Do not store or use helium compressed gas cylinders in hot areas, near open flames or electrical devices.
- Do not attempt to transfer helium from one cylinder to another.

For more information visit www.ehs.ucr.edu or call 951-827-5528 for more information