

DON'T TURN A CYLINDER INTO A ROCKET

These rules for handling gas cylinders produced by Bernie M. Enfield, Chicago Bridge & Iron Company, were reprinted from a CONSTRUCTION SAFETY RELEASE published by the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

It takes more than plain common sense to protect gas cylinders from damage on a job. It is important to know the rules of safe use but it is just as important to know why cylinders must be protected.

IF A NECK OF AN OXYGEN CYLINDER SHOULD BE ACCIDENTLY BROKEN OFF, THE ENERGY RELEASED WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROPELL THE CYLINDER TO OVER 3/4 OF A MILE IN HEIGHT.

Here are some rules for safe storage and use:

1. Protect cylinders from open flames or sources of heat.
2. Slings or electric magnets should not be used to move cylinders.
3. Never use oxygen or acetylene cylinders as dollies or rollers for supporting or moving material or equipment. Stand cylinders in a vertical position. Secure so they cannot fall over.
4. Never use valve protection caps for lifting.
5. Avoid placing cylinders in positions where they may become a part of an electrical circuit which could cause arcing.
6. Cylinders must not be dropped, struck or tipped over.
7. Mark empty cylinders "EMPTY" of "MP."
8. Keep valves closed on empty cylinders.
9. Never connect a regulator to a cylinder containing a gas other than that for which the regulator is designated.
10. Be sure all connections are tight. Never try to locate a leak with a flame—use soapy water.
11. Always call acetylene "ACETYLENE" not "GAS" . . . call oxygen "OXYGEN" not "Gas" . . . call propane "PROPANE" not "GAS." The word gas is a general term and confusion here is dangerous.
12. Protect cylinder valves from bumps, falls, falling objects, and from weather. Keep them clean.

Perhaps, if you follow the above rules you can keep from turning a cylinder into a rocket.