# SWM-07. Gas Bottle Safety SWMS

**ACWA: Safe Work Method – Gas Bottle Safety**

**Note:** This Safe Work Method only provides guidance information and may not necessarily cover all possible hazards and should be used with other references

**Date: August/2023.**

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| Risk Assessment | |
| **Hazard** | **Risk** |
| Exploding gas cylinders | * Exploding gas cylinders |
| Lifting gas cylinders | * Lifting gas cylinders |

## Handling

* Never drop bottles from vehicles, trailers, platforms, etc. Always have sufficient personnel on hand to lift bottles from delivery vehicles safely,
* Do not allow cylinders to strike each other or any other surface violently,
* Avoid lifting cylinders by the cap or valve,
* Always transport bottles securely to prevent movement. Never drag, slide or roll a cylinder,
* Do not expose cylinders to naked flames or sparks,
* Treat all gas bottles as being full. Empty cylinders can still explode.

## Storage

* Do not store or transport bottles in the horizontal position,
* Ensure bottles are positioned securely. Never leave bottles unsecured with any possibility of falling (particularly those without a collar),
* Do not change or store bottles in the presence of naked flames or in the proximity of other ignition sources,
* Always replace safety caps/plugs when the bottle is empty or not in use,
* No flammable liquids combustible, corrosive or oxidising material should be stored near a gas storage area. Compressed oxygen must be kept 10m away from all flammable gases.

## Gas Bottle Use

* Check hoses regularly. Ensure it is properly secured with hose clips. If hoses are damaged or showing signs of wear, replace them,
* Ensure you always use the correct valves, hoses and fittings designed for the application. If in doubt, contact the manufacturer or your supplier,
* Never tamper with or attempt to repair or alter cylinders, regulators, or pressure relief devices. Return cylinders to your gas supplier for all repairs,
* Never use tools to operate bottle valves,
* Make sure the cylinder is equipped with the correct regulator. Always use the regulator designed for the gas in use, and that no grease or oil is used on the regulator or cylinder valves as these substances may cause a dangerous reaction within the cylinder,
* Before removing a regulator from a cylinder, close the cylinder valve and release all pressure from the regulator,
* Always position the cylinder so that the valve at the top is easily accessible at all times,
* The valve should never be left open when equipment is not in use, even when empty; air and moisture may diffuse through an open valve, causing contamination and corrosion within the cylinder,
* Never smoke during the handling of any gas bottle.