

Cylinders in Fires



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Introduction

This leaflet provides advice on the actions to take in the event of a fire on or near gas cylinders. Where cylinders are in transport then further clarification is given in the '*Instructions in Writing according to ADR*' carried on all vehicles transporting dangerous goods.

Gas cylinders are designed to contain gases under pressure. This can vary from a low pressure to a very high pressure. If exposed to extreme heat all gas cylinders are at risk of failure, and may suddenly rupture due to over pressure. The presence of flammable or oxidant gases can have a significant effect on the severity of the fire.

Dissolved acetylene is different from other compressed gases and requires specific post fire actions, refer to the Fire and Rescue Service (F&RS) National Operational Guidance. Links to the F&RS guidance and further information on dealing with cylinders in fire (including extensive guidance on dissolved acetylene cylinders) is available on the BCGA website, on the '*Cylinders in Fires*' webpage:

www.bcga.co.uk/cylinders-in-fires

If a gas leak occurs and / or ignites (flammable gases) in the presence of an operator, if safe to do so, isolate by turning off the cylinder valve. If a fire continues carry out the actions in '*For cylinders involved in fires*'.

For cylinders involved in fires

- KEEP AWAY - DO NOT approach or attempt to move the cylinder or operate the valve.
- Raise the alarm.
- Evacuate the immediate area and keep others away.
- Contact the Fire and Rescue Service.

The F&RS will need to know which gases you have, where the cylinders are located and their quantity.

Post fire actions

Following an incident the F&RS will inform you when it is safe to approach the gas cylinders.

Do not use any cylinders which have been involved in a fire. Some may have obvious damage but others may have had their mechanical properties affected by heat, unnoticeable to the naked eye.

Inform your gas supplier whenever a cylinder has been involved in a fire or if it is suspected that it has been affected by excessive heat. Your gas supplier will provide advice on what to do next, which will vary depending upon the circumstances.

Gas company emergency contact numbers

Your gas supplier's details will be marked on the cylinders and on your sales documentation, but where these markings are illegible or where time is limited, the main gas supplier's emergency contact numbers are listed below:

Air Liquide	01675 462695	BOC	0800 111333
Air Products	08085 020202	Energas	01482 329333



For further information contact your gas supplier or refer to:

British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA), 4a Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby, UK. DE24 8GX.
www.bcga.co.uk Company Number: 71798, England.