

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

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Type of Incident: **Property Damage From Compressed Gas Release**

What Happened: Someone brushed against an unsecured compressed gas cylinder causing it to fall and knock over another gas cylinder that had no protective cap over the valve. The valve opened, releasing compressed gas and sending the cylinder into a spin. A sink was knocked over, breaking open water pipes and flooding the area. No one was injured.

Immediate Cause: Improperly secured compressed gas cylinders

Root Causes: Failure of supervisor to ensure that compressed gas cylinders are properly handled and secured. Failure of laboratory occupants to follow proper compressed gas cylinder safety rules.

Corrective Actions:

1. Inspect and ensure that compressed gas cylinders are secured with a belt or chain, including empty cylinders.
2. Ensure that no more than two cylinders are secured per fastener.
3. Inspect and ensure that when a gas is not connected for use, the protective valve cover is screwed on hand tight.
4. Ensure that all laboratory occupants are trained in the proper handling, storage and use of compressed gas cylinders.

If a cylinder is leaking, report immediately to BOC toll free at **800 BOC GASES** (800) 262-4273.

The gas vendor, BOC Gas, will deliver directly to point of use at NO charge.

Have sufficient cylinder fasteners available.

Demurrage (rental) charges are no longer applied for gas cylinders.

6AL refillable cylinder size should be ordered to replace lecture bottles that are a disposal problem.

Additional information: www.cganet.com and www.boc.com

