



LiveSafe Communication 04/11

SUBJECT: Safe Handling of Gas Cylinders

DATE: 4 July 2011

INCIDENT

A number of compressed gas cylinders were being moved using a forklift truck, when one of the gas cylinders fell off and hit the ground. The cylinder valve stem hit the ground and was bent in the incident; but in this case the cylinder did not depressurise. Fortunately in this case, no injury or damage was sustained to the operator, the forklift or the site.

The potentially deadly power of a compressed gas cylinder can be seen in this video clip <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejEJGNLT084>



HAZARDS IDENTIFIED

- Failure by the operator to recognise that the load wasn't properly secured to the gas cage pallet.
- Incorrect retaining devices used to secure load
- Failure by the operator to recognise that driving on uneven surface could lead to the cylinders falling off the pallet
- Failure to recognise that the missing valve guard increased the risk of valve damage if the cylinder fell over or was dropped.

REQUIRED CONTROLS

- Review and refresh training of employees in the safe handling of gas cylinders
- Review and update securing systems used for this type of item when being moved by forklift.

Managers / Supervisors: Please discuss within your respective areas of responsibility.

In the event that you require further information on this communication or clarification of any of the content, please contact a member of the HSEQ Team on.

HSEQ and Compliance Director
THINKSAFE – WORKSAFE - LIVESAFE