

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Back and muscle strain
from manual handling



Cold burns from
leaking cylinders



Crush injuries as a result of
falling cylinders



Asphyxiation from leaking
CO₂



Impact injuries as a result of
uncontrolled movement of cylinders
caused by rapid release of CO₂

What PPE should the individual wear?



Storage, handling and use of balloon gas cylinders

Safety Task Card

STCGE 14

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Balloon gas cylinders must be stored in designated storage areas and in accordance with the supplier's or manufacture's instructions.
2. Storage areas should be indoors, protected from extremes of heat and cold and well ventilated.
3. A COSHH Product Assessment for balloon gas should be completed and available.
4. Read the safety information on the cylinder neck label and the warning on the side of the cylinder before use.
5. Where possible, use a cylinder trolley or other suitable equipment to transport cylinders.
6. Wear appropriate PPE, including reinforced toe capped safety shoes and rigger gloves where handling cylinders forms a significant part of your duties.
7. Balloon gas cylinders may only be used with the correct regulators fitted.
8. When in use balloon gas cylinders must be secured in an upright position with straps.
9. Before use the valve should slowly be momentarily opened a small amount to blow out any grit or foreign matter. This procedure may also be followed to check whether a cylinder is empty.
10. Once connected to equipment, cylinder valves must be opened slowly.
11. NEVER allow anyone to breathe helium from cylinders or from filled balloons, although not poisonous it can result in asphyxiation.
12. NEVER allow children or any other unauthorised persons to handle cylinders or use balloon filling equipment.
13. Damaged cylinders and regulators should be isolated and clearly labelled to prevent their use.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

Safety Task Card

Storage, handling and use of balloon gas cylinders continued

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List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.