



March 2018

Dear RETRO Members;

This month is [Save Your Vision](#) and [Workplace Eye Health and Safety Month](#). This is an opportunity to check your personal protective eye gear and make sure that your employees are properly using them. Remember eyes are priceless and eye protection is cheap!

First topic is: **Safety Inspections**. You routinely perform safety inspections for the different parts of your operation, but annually you should give your shop a 'physical' by doing a top-to-bottom check. Yes, just like when you go to your doctor. That means you go through everything; Accident Prevention Plan, Hazard Communications-MSDS, posters, workstations, personal protective gear, emergency plans, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, electrical cords, smoke alarms, and so on. From this you will have a list of items that will need some sort of attention that you can begin to correct, making sure that your operation is doing the best it can to reduce accidents and have a safe working environment. Included in this packet is a general checklist (PDF) that can be used as a starting point. If you need a different format, one that you can modify to better suit your operation in Excel or Word, contact me so I can get that to you. [RASI SAFETY library for Check List worksheet](#)

The second item is: **Forklift Safety**. Many employees are injured when forklifts are inadvertently driven off loading docks or fall between docks and an unsecured trailer. Other workers are hurt when they are struck by a forklift, or when they fall while standing on elevated pallets and tines. Most incidents also involve property damage, including damage to overhead sprinklers, racking, pipes, walls, and other machinery. You also need to consider type of load, speed, incline and surface when operating a forklift. [Link to forklift training tools](#). There are some good videos on [RASI SafetyTV](#) in the forklift section. Forklift operators are required to be at least 18 years old and have a separate certification.

Final item is: **Compressed Gas**. You may have different types of cylinders of compressed gases in the shop. You weld, or use a torch to heat up to loosen bearings or bolts. These cylinders need to properly be stored when not in use, that means removing the gauge set, re-capping and securing tanks so that they don't tip over.

Most of us know what the various compressed gas cylinders are used for on the job, but how many of us realize that the gases stored in those cylinders are under pressure from 250 psi to 2200 psi? These pressures make the cylinders not only dangerous from a fire standpoint but if not handled and stored properly, you are looking at a bomb or a rocket. Today we want to talk about the safe use of compressed gas cylinders.



Some discussion topics:

1. Always store compressed gas cylinders in a secure upright position.
2. Always store with caps over the valves. Remove the gauges and hoses after use.
3. Never store two different types of gases closely together.
4. Never tamper with any safety devices on the valve or cylinder.
5. Always open valves slowly.
6. Avoid storing cylinders in areas of high temperatures (shade works).
7. Never use cylinders for rollers or sawhorses.
8. Never attempt to repair valves or regulators.
9. Separate full cylinders from empty ones.
10. Do not try to transfer gases from one cylinder to another.
11. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby when handling or working with compressed gas cylinders.
12. When in use, keep cylinders secured to a cart designed for that use.
13. Remove empty cylinders from the work area.
14. Never expose gases to oil or grease.

Remember that improper use of compressed gas cylinders is a common safety violation. Most people think the cylinders are safe. However, they are safe only if treated properly. To insure that they don't become a hazard, follow the basic rules we just discussed. The L&I rule can be found here; <http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety/rules/chapter/24/WAC296-24.pdf> and then look at Part K.

Here at WRA, we want all employees to take the time and be safe! Remember, DOSH can fine your business if you are not holding and documenting monthly safety meetings.

Thinking safety for you,

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