

HSE Bulletin

Forklift Propane Cylinders

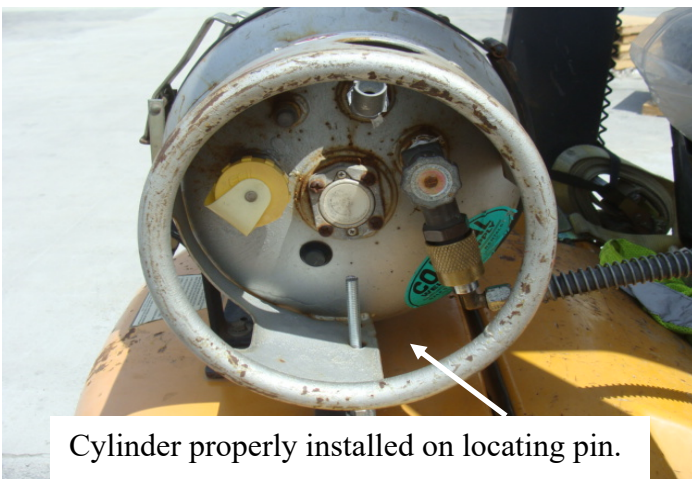
(Not at Motiva) A forklift operator was fatally injured in an incident involving a leaking propane cylinder. The involved forklift's cylinder was secured by a metal bracket on the body of the cylinder; however, the forklift's locating pin had not been inserted into the locating hole on the propane cylinder collar. As the forklift was being operated, the propane cylinder rolled, allowing the hose to crimp and begin leaking propane. The leaking propane was ignited by a nearby source, causing a fire that killed the operator.

Properly Inspect the Forklift Before Use:

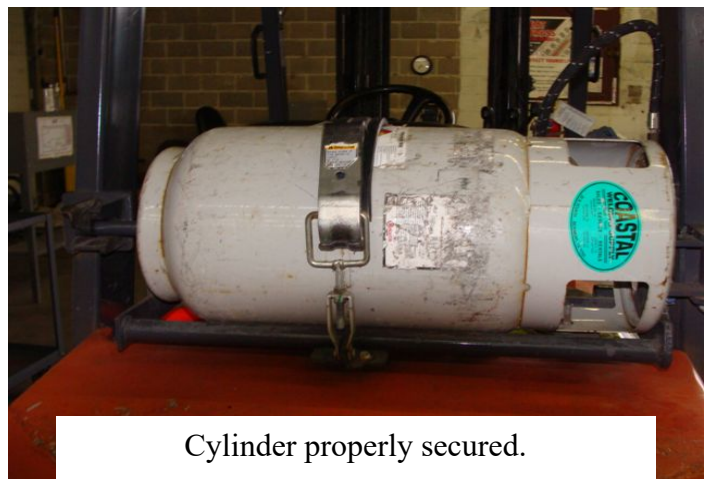
- Ensure the locating pin has been properly installed through the locating hole on the collar of the cylinder.
 - A cylinder can be mounted in the wrong position if the pin is missing or broken.
- Several problems are created when a propane cylinder is located in the wrong position.
 - First, the withdrawal tube is exposed to the vapor space, which may give a false indication that the cylinder is empty.
 - Second, improperly mounted cylinders may cause the pressure relief valve to be immersed, which would cause the cylinder to vent.
- Physically verify cylinder bracket and ensure it is properly tightened.
 - Loose cylinders can rotate in the bracket and put strain on the connection.

Safe Work Practices:

- Never operate a forklift with a damaged or missing locating pin.
- Remove forklift from service if the locating pin is broken or missing.
- Do not operate a forklift if securing bracket is loose.



Cylinder properly installed on locating pin.



Cylinder properly secured.