

Training, SOPs, and Your Emergency Plan for Compressed Gases

Training and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

All lab personnel must receive training through this course **and** live, hands-on, in-house training provided by the supervisor, manager, or Principal Investigator (PI) **before** being allowed to work with compressed gases and/or the cylinders! This **must**:

- Include hands-on training showing different types of regulators, changing regulators, performing leak tests, etc.
- Be documented with the date and time of the provided training.
- Kept on file and presented upon request.

All areas using compressed gases should have an up-to-date, written SOP and placed in an area for easy access for all working in and around the area.



Your Emergency Plan

Every location where compressed gases are handled should have a written emergency plan covering steps to be taken in the event of an accidental release of gas.

This plan should consider both the chemical and physical properties inside the cylinder as well as the potential hazard of the cylinder holding the compressed gases.

At a minimum, the plan should specify the following:

- Emergency response contact and numbers displayed predominantly
- Evacuation procedures
- Emergency equipment available for smaller issues
 - Containment and disposal procedures for smaller issues

- The type of alarm system(s) you have in place – if applicable

Emergencies

Never use a flame to locate a gas leak.

In the event of an emergency:

- Stop all leaks that occur from the cylinder in gas lines, tubes, or apparatus by closing the main cylinder valve **if safe to do so**.
- **If** the leak cannot be stopped by closing the cylinder valve, and is:
 - An inert gas (e.g., nitrogen, argon, etc.), clear the affected area/floor.
 - A specialty gas (corrosive, cryogenic/liquid nitrogen, flammable, oxidizer, pyrophoric, toxic/HH3 or HH4) and is outside of a ventilated enclosure that will contain the gas
 - **Immediately evacuate the building!**
 - Activate the building's fire alarm system.
 - Call UAB Police (911 from a UAB landline **OR** 934-3535 from a cell phone)

Save time and lives! Know your numbers!

Dialing 911 from a cell phone will call the Birmingham Police Department who will then call UAB Police.

911 – from a UAB landline

934-3535 – from a cell phone