

C-1 Acetylene Fires

Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

1. Cylinder Fires

- 1. If the flame is around the valve, the regulator, or the threaded pressure plug, the flame can be wiped out with a wet rag or smothered with putty. Firefighters should watch out for the pressure plug blowing out while doing this.
 - *Note: Older style pressure plugs may be made of lead while newer plugs may be made of brass.
- 2. Fire burning from a blown pressure plug will subside in a few minutes as refrigeration of the acetone (in which the acetylene is dissolved) takes place.
- 3. Fire personnel shall protect exposed cylinders with fog streams.
- 4. When the flame from the involved cylinder is approximately one foot high, it can be extinguished with a dry chemical extinguisher by applying the agent at the base of the flame and in the same direction as the escaping gas.
- 5. When extinguishment is complete, fire personnel shall move the involved cylinder outdoors, where it will be less of a hazard.

2. Fire Inside a Cylinder

On rare occasions, un-observable flames will recede into the cylinder producing a hissing noise, and causing paint to burn off the cylinder. This is an extremely dangerous condition.

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- 1. Fire personnel witnessing this condition shall cool the cylinder with a narrow fog stream.
- 2. Fire personnel shall secure nozzles in position to envelope the cylinder in spray and withdraw to a safe location until the burning process is complete.
- 3. If, upon arrival, a loud hissing or frying noise is heard and the cylinder is cherry red, swelling, or bulging, crews shall evacuate the area and stay behind a substantial barricade while directing streams on the cylinder. An explosion producing fragmentation of the cylinder is likely.

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