



## SAFETY CIRCULAR 15/2019

File: D04950

October 2019

### SAFE USE OF MEDICAL OXYGEN CYLINDERS

An incident external to DFES involving the replacement of an oxy viva cylinder has been investigated by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS). A worker 'cracked' open a fully charged unrestrained cylinder to the atmosphere. The resulting action was the cylinder acted like a projectile causing injuries to the worker and a bystander.

Full spare oxygen cylinders are fitted with shrink wrap, and the cracking of the cylinder to expel contaminants is not required. This is a timely reminder for all personnel to be aware of the safe practices required when working and handling oxygen equipment.

- Handle with care
- Do not leave cylinders standing upright or unattended (have control of them at all times)
- Lay unattended cylinders on the ground in a safe location
- Protect from extremes of heat
- Do not operate near naked flames
- Protect from oils and greases.

#### Key Message

Oxy viva cylinders are NEVER to be 'cracked' open and must only be opened once the cylinder is securely fitted to the Oxy Viva yoke.

**CRAIG WATERS**  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

Target Audience: All personnel who operate oxy viva (medical oxygen) cylinders.				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
SC-15-19	Issue Date:	Valid Until:	Contact:	Learning & Development
Page 1 of 1	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Craig.Edmonds@dfes.wa.gov.au	