



CGA ADVISORY CARBON DIOXIDE EXTINGUISHER CYLINDERS

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<p>Compressed Gas Association, Inc. SAFETY ALERT</p>	<p>4221 Walney Road, 5th Floor Chantilly, VA 20151-2923</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Aluminum Cylinders – Exposure to High Heat</p> <p>This alert applies to high pressure refillable aluminum cylinders made from alloy 6351 or 6061.</p> <p>Aluminum cylinders can be damaged by exposure to temperatures above 350°F (177°C). Exposure to temperatures above this level could weaken the cylinder to such an extent that the cylinder could be unsafe to fill. Visual examination of the cylinder may not be sufficient to determine if the cylinder is safe to fill. In most cases overheating from a fire will be readily apparent by standard visual examination. However, other sources of heat (electric element, superheated steam, hot air) may not produce any visual sign or indicator of overheating. A system for indicating that heating damage has made an aluminum cylinder unsafe to fill is recommended for aluminum cylinders filled in the specialty gas, industrial and medical markets.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CGA Safety Alert Aluminum Cylinders – Exposure to High Heat February 24, 1998</p>	

It is mandatory that any aluminum carbon dioxide extinguisher or carbonic cylinder which has been directly exposed to a fire and shows evidence of the exposure should be condemned, reported to the owner and disposed of properly.

In the case where there is strong suspicion of exposure but no direct physical evidence, the cylinder should be subjected to a full hydrostatic test to verify through permanent expansion that the cylinder is still within specifications, many small fires in small enclosures can easily generate temperatures in excess of 360°F.