

## Compressed Gas Storage, Handling, & Disposal

Understanding these can be  
our local home improvement store if



**Preparation is Key:** Keep the topic relevant. Work with your team to review potential compressed gas hazard exposures in your workplace and discuss how tgroups including Facilities, research, and academic shops, require the use of compressed gases, such as oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and chlorine for activities such as cutting and welding, maintaining athletic pools, and conducting research.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), compressed gases are hazardous materials, and in 2019 accounted for 1/3 of the serious OSHA violations related to handling hazardous materials. While the use of compressed gases are common, it is critical that we understand how to properly store, handle, and dispose of these because mishandling of any kind can be disastrous.

If cylinders are leaking, take them outdoors away from sparks or heat and slowly empty them.

When grilling with propane, remember not to smoke nearby and only use outdoors or in a well-ventilated space. of

### For Additional Information

Contact Gwen Butler, Director, Environmental Health & Safety, at 847.491.4936.

Do you or your team have a safety story you'd like to share? Contact Risk Management at [gwen.butler@northwestern.edu](mailto:gwen.butler@northwestern.edu) for details.