

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0027
Subject:	Over filling of forklift gas bottle
Date	May 2007

Incident:

Forklift operator was refilling gas bottle on forklift when gas started to rush out of the connection between the gas bottle entry valve and supply gas tank refilling hose, which resulted in operator being hit in face and arms with gas.

Upon Investigation it was found that the release valve on the bottle, which releases small burst of gas to indicate to the operator that bottle is full, was either faulty or had not been opened prior to refilling, causing operator to overfill bottle.



Release valve



Key Lessons:

- Ensure all operators are aware of the refilling procedures and to regularly assess new and safer alternatives on the market.

Recommendations: (maximum of 3)

- Have all standard (relief valve) gas bottles changed to **afl (auto fill limiter)** gas bottles to reduce human error factor when refilling.
- Ensure that all forklift operators are trained in the correct refilling procedures.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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