SHARP START

January 21 — Unsecured Gas Cylinder

A bottle of argon that was being used was on a hand truck, but not strapped to anything	**Had the guys ratchet strap it to a fence.**

A bottle stood tall on a truck with no tie,
Looked just fine till it started to fly.
Strap it down before work begins,
So steel stays still and nobody wins.

The cylinder looked stable because it was standing upright and supported by the hand truck. That's where people get comfortable. Cylinders don't fail slowly they fall suddenly. Without a strap or chain, the entire setup depends on balance and luck. If the hand truck shifts, bumps, or rolls, the cylinder goes with it. Once a compressed gas cylinder starts to fall, there's no safe way to stop it.

This is a "just for now" setup that turns into a serious hazard without warning.

Hazards

- Cylinder tip-over causing impact injuries
- Valve damage leading to uncontrolled gas release
- Projectile hazard if the valve shears
- Damage to equipment or surrounding work areas
- Escalation into struck-by or line-of-fire injuries

Stats

- Compressed gas cylinders can become **high-energy projectiles** if valves are damaged
- Tip-over incidents are a leading cause of cylinder-related injuries
- Many cylinder accidents occur during **movement or temporary staging**, not transport
- OSHA requires cylinders to be **secured against falling at all times**

Words of Wisdom

- Upright doesn't mean secure.
- If it can tip, it eventually will.

Pause and Think

Cylinders feel manageable because they're common and familiar. When they're on a hand truck, it feels like the job is halfway done — even when the most important step hasn't happened yet. Strapping the cylinder isn't about preventing normal movement; it's about preventing the one unexpected shift that turns a routine task into a high-energy incident.

- What's actually holding this cylinder in place?
- What happens if the hand truck moves or gets bumped?
- Would this setup be acceptable if someone else was working next to it?