



Pressurising - Pressure vessels carries a risk where possible rupture of the cylinder or components may be involved while carrying out this process.

WHY SAFETY CAGES SHOULD BE USED:

Technician tend to not use safety cages when they are available through laziness or lack of respect for pressure. Coupled to that their assistants follow the bad example.

Pressure Equipment Regulations:

No person shall fill, recharge, recondition, modify, repair, inspect or test any fire extinguisher unless such person is an authorised person. The only authorised persons in your case is a SAQCC registered competent person.

An assistant is not authorised to perform this task especially where pressure is concerned.

In the event of an incident you as the qualified person due to your education, knowledge, and experience will be deemed **"to know or ought to know"** the dangers involved in this activity.

What if:

- a. What if there is a manufacturing fault in the cylinder or the valve.

A few years ago there was manufacturing fault in the valves which resulted in them detaching when subjected to pressure when being re-pressured.

There was a fault concerning the domed base which expanded during pressure test on its normal 5 yearly cycle. Could have ruptures during re-pressuring. (How many of you actually check for permanent expansion of the base to level surface while pressure testing?)

- b. What if there has been illegal repair not detected during your inspection?
- c. What if there is a manufacturing fault where the cylinder welding if faulty?
- d. What if you forget to check the regulator has not been re-adjusted to a higher pressure than required?
- e. What if the regulator decides to become faulty while you are performing the task?



TOOL BOX 035- SAFETY CAGES

- f. What if the cylinder has been sandblasted, and repainted as new reducing the wall thickness?
- g. What if the extinguisher has been involved in a fire, and repainted?

Finally:

How many of you love that feeling when the extinguisher kicks as you push the full 1400kpa into the extinguisher.

Think about it – You have prepared the extinguisher ready for the re-pressure activity, and off you go to lunch – After lunch you return, and prepare the extinguisher for the final stages to ensure its fit for use.

During lunch the powder has been settling, and slow compacting in the cylinder as well as the little bit in the syphon tube.

You now are in a hurry because the boss wants the job completed. So to speed the process up, and force the full 1400kpa into it fast. That 1400kpa meets the first resistance in the syphon tube, forcing itself through into the main cylinder (the Kick). Think about it

There is only +/- 1600 qualified technicians in the country – So the odds of you winning the exploding prize is good at 1 chance in 1600 of becoming a statistic, and you can give yourself an even better chance the more extinguishers you service.

By the way – If your assistant blows themselves up – go back the “why safety cages should be used” – You are the competent person “think about it”

HAVE A GOOD EVENT FREE DAY.

Presented By: Name: _____	Date _____	Signature _____
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