



# Gas Cylinders

## The problem & concerns facing municipalities



# Types of Cylinders

- **Single Use Propane** – 1lb. Camping cylinders
- **Refillable Propane at retail** – Typically 7lb. and above. Most common is the 20lb. gas grill tanks
- **Self Refillable Propane** - i.e. Flame King
- **Propane Exchange programs** – AmeriGas and Blue Rhino
- **Helium**
- **CO2** – i.e. soda stream



Single Use Soldering



Single Use Camping



Exchange Programs



Exchange  
CO2



Helium one use tanks



Retail Refilling Stations



1lb. Self-Refilling Kit

# Fuel Cylinders

## The Problem

- **Difficult to manage and recycle** – Must de-valve or puncture a hole before discarding into scrap metal
- **Few Outlets** – Nearly all scrap yards don't want them, pose risk and danger
- **Litter** – Thousands of cylinders are left behind in parks every year (estimated 10,000 in Connecticut State Parks)
- **Costly** – They are a cost burden on municipalities and the state
- **Dangerous** - Often are hidden in the recycling stream and are an extreme danger to Material Recovery Facilities where they can explode





## MEMO to Municipalities from SIMS

### **Prohibited Material: Closed Cylinders (tanks are like bombs):**

“Dear Scrap Supplier to our North Haven and New Haven, Connecticut facilities including GATEWAY terminal. As you know, all scrap metal recyclers, including Sims Metal Management (SMM), are subject to a variety of requirements that restrict us from what we may accept from our suppliers. **As a result we provide a list of prohibited material in Exhibit A to this letter. These include "pressurized containers or cylinders including propane tanks" and other "compressed gas tanks" (e.g. acetylene, LNG, oxygen) as well as other "closed containers"**. One major reason that we prohibit propane and other closed cylinders, tanks and containers, fuel and undrained fuel tanks is to **prevent explosions and fires which can injure personnel, damage equipment and disrupt the community. The safety of our employees is most critical...**

In order to keep such cylinders, tanks and containers out of our inbound materials, we will require that supplier to pay us a **\$40 penalty for each such cylinder, tank or container we find in your load of scrap materials**. So please help us be safe and inspect your loads. You will get a warning first but repeat offenders will be charged.”




**Cylinders  
Are small bombs**



**This is what is left of a 20lb. tank after it has exploded inside the Hartford MIRA Facility.**

Fuel Cylinder  
Explosion inside a  
Connecticut  
Material Recovery Facility



Refilling 1 lb. propane tanks

IS

**ILLEGAL**

and can be

**DEADLY**

# Fuel Cylinders

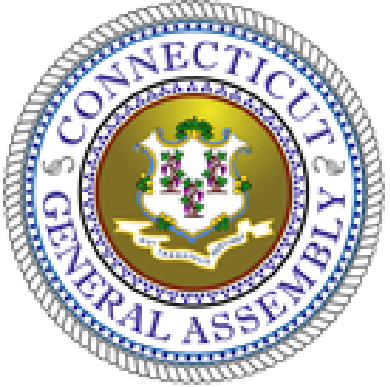
## The Solution - Extended Producer Responsibility

- Producers share the responsibility and burden of end-of-life management
- Design for the environment
- Performance targets
- Collection convenience standards
- Outreach and Education





# History



**2003 The Product Stewardship Institute facilitated meetings** to identify problems related to the improper disposal of non-refillable gas cylinders but due to lack of funding product stewardship was not introduced.

**2020 the CT Product Stewardship Council created and introduced AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIRES, SMOKE DETECTORS AND CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS.** RB-414 Never had a hearing due to covid

**2021 Session HB-6386 AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS.** Passed out of the Environment Committee, but never made it to the floor

**2022 Session HB-4142 AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS.** Passed unanimously out of Committee, the House and the Senate, it now waits for the Governor's signature.

Mean while the **State of California** is attempting to ban single-use cylinders with SB1256

The **State of Vermont** introduced AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS CONTAINING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES H0115 to introduce EPR for cylinders. The bill passed out of the House but failed in the Senate.



**Maine and Oregon Packaging Bill**



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