



Fire Safety Tips: Medical Oxygen

Portable medical oxygen is used by an increasing number of people, and households that use it need to be aware of the risks. Here are some fire safety tips for medical oxygen:

- Don't smoke around medical oxygen, as fire needs oxygen to burn. When more oxygen is in the air, any fire that starts will burn hotter and faster than usual. There is no safe way to smoke in the home when medical oxygen is in use.
- Put a "No Smoking" sign inside and outside homes where medical oxygen is used and enforce it. Smoking materials are the leading heat source resulting in medical oxygen related fires, injuries and death.
- Candles, matches, wood stoves and even sparking toys can spark and start a fire. They should not be used in a home where medical oxygen is used.
- Keep medical oxygen cylinders at least five (5) feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices.
- Body oil, hand lotion, and items containing oil and grease can easily catch on fire.
- Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.
- Oxygen saturates fabric covered furniture, clothing, hair and bedding making it easier for a fire to start and spread.