



## HOME OXYGEN SAFETY

### What You And Your Family Should Know

While oxygen is not flammable itself, it makes things burn much faster. Using home oxygen increases the risk of fires and burns. If you are using oxygen in your home, you must take extra care to stay safe.

#### Have Your Home Ready

- Post “no smoking” signs inside of your home and on the outside of the entry door(s) of the home to remind guests not to smoke.
- Make sure that you have working smoke detectors, preferably one on each floor. Detectors should be tested at least once a month. Batteries in the smoke detector should be changed twice a year.
  - Specialized smoke detectors are available for the hearing impaired.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher within each reach. Everyone living in the home should know how to use it. If you move around the home with your oxygen, you may need more than one fire extinguisher, e.g., one on each floor of the home.

#### Smoking Is Very dangerous.



- You should never smoke while using oxygen. No one should smoke in a room where you or your child is using oxygen.



#### Other Safety Tips:

- Do not use oxygen while you are cooking or near open flames from such things as candles, incense, matches, lighters, wood-burning stove/fireplace, or kerosene heater.
- Keep oxygen at least 6 feet away from toys with electric motors and electric appliances such as electric razor, hairdryers, electric toothbrushes, electric blanket or electric heaters. Avoid using any electrical equipment that is not in good repair.
- Prevent possible electrical overload by not using an extension cord with concentrator or plugging into an outlet that has other appliances plugged into it. Overloading an electrical outlet can cause a fire.
- Keep liquids that may catch fire away from your oxygen. This includes cleaning products that contain oil, grease, petroleum products, alcohol or other liquids that can burn.

- Do not use oil based lip balms or lotions on your face or upper part of your body unless prescribed by your physician.

## **Oxygen Tanks, Concentrators And Tubing**

- Oxygen tanks should be stored away from sunlight and heat.
- Do not store oxygen containers near radiators, heat ducts, steam pipes or other sources of heat.
- If you use an oxygen cylinder, make sure it is secured to a fixed object or in a stand or lying down.
- Keep oxygen cylinders in a well-ventilated area.
- Do not store in a closet.
- Do not cover cylinders with cloth or plastic.
- Do not transport or store oxygen in the trunk of your car.
- Do not perform any maintenance on your home oxygen tank, regulator, flow meter, stand or oxygen concentrator cabinet. Contact you oxygen supplier about maintenance concerns. Make sure to have your home oxygen supplier's contact telephone number accessible and easily visible for you or others in your household.
- If you use an oxygen concentrator, notify your electric company to check if you can be given priority if there is a power failure.
- Always have a backup oxygen tank. Make sure you know how to use it.
- Oxygen tubing should not be kinked or bent or have anything set on it to obstruct oxygen flow.
- Avoid tripping over oxygen tubing.
- Turn your oxygen container, tank or concentrator off when you are not using your oxygen.

## **Evacuation Plan**

- Identify at least two fire escape routes out of your home. Keep these routes and exits clear at all times. Identify a place to meet when you are safely outside your home. It is optimal to practice the escape plan twice a year.
- If a fire starts, immediately turn off the oxygen and leave the house.

## **Calling For Help**

- Call 911 to summon help. Place a phone near your bed or favorite chair.
- Consider wearing a medical alert alarm.