



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Medical Oxygen Safety

Oxygen Facts

The air is normally 21% oxygen. Oxygen is not flammable, but fire needs it to burn

When more oxygen is present, any fire that starts will burn hotter and faster than usual

More oxygen in the air means that things such as hair, plastic, skin oils, clothing, and furniture can catch fire at lower temperatures.

Portable Medical Oxygen

Portable medical oxygen in the home has grown over the past decade. Medical oxygen adds a higher percentage of oxygen to the air a patient uses to breathe.

Hospital emergency rooms have seen an increase of thermal burns per year caused by ignitions associated with home medical oxygen. Eighty-nine percent of the victims suffered facial burns.

During 2002-2005, oxygen administration equipment was involved in an estimated average of 182 home fires.

These fires caused an average of 46 civilian deaths and 60 civilian injuries per years.



Medical Oxygen Safety Tips

Never smoke while using medical oxygen.

Candles, matches, wood

stoves and even sparking toys, can be ignition sources and should not be used in a home with medical oxygen.

Oxygen cylinders should be at least five feet from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices.

Never use aerosol spray containing combustible materials near the oxygen.

Post "no smoking" signs in and outside of the home to remind residents and guests not to smoke.

National Fire Protection Association

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/consumers/causes/medical-oxygen>

Fires and Burns Involving Home

Oxygen, by Marty Ahrens, August 2008.

Fire Safety Word Search

SLGMLDQDCADKELNOPV
QVNOEZEFPMSMOKINGQUE
RPJSMDYTLEMTWEHNZEQ
ZOXYGENYHZMETOACDEV
DVESZAQEMCCPQUZRIEVQ
HQINJVWEVBDKUSEQPEZQ
HVEGIPLZEFRQECGEDPETS
AZCVEOTEALJDDAOLVAQVC
FYTMFIDLVDSEJGZIQLSPE

Fire Safety Quiz

Do not store cylinders in areas where the temperatures could exceed ____.

- A- 100 degrees
- B- 120 degrees
- C- 200 degrees
- D- 85 degrees

Smoking materials are the leading heat source resulting in medical oxygen related fires, injuries and deaths?

- A- True
- B- False

Correct Answers: 1: B, 2: B

The Valdosta Fire Department is committed to keeping the business and residential communities safe.

Never permit any form of lubricant (oil, grease, baby oil, lubricating gel etc.) to come into contact with oxygen fittings or hoses. If you are using any of these thoroughly wash your hands before handling the oxygen fittings or hose.

It is recommended to install a smoke alarm in the bedroom where the Medical Oxygen is being utilized, and one outside the room

Store oxygen in a dry location away from direct sunlight.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Sergeant Chris Staples at 229-333-1835 send an email to valdostafire@valdostacity.org



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief