



MEDICAL OXYGEN FIRE SAFETY

What's the Risk?

Oxygen users must take precautions because anything that burns (such as clothing, carpets, drapes, furniture, etc.) will burn much **faster** and at a **higher** temperature in the presence of oxygen, if a flame or spark is present.

Oxygen **saturates** fabric covered furniture, clothing, hair and bedding, making it easier for a fire to start and spread quickly.

Smoking materials are the leading heat source resulting in medical oxygen related fires, injuries or deaths in Ontario.

How Do I Prevent an Oxygen Related Fire?

- Do not smoke or let anyone else smoke where medical oxygen is in use or stored. There is **NO** safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. This includes all types of tobacco and non-tobacco smoking products including electronic cigarettes.



- Post **NO SMOKING** signs – one at the entrance to a home and one in the room where the oxygen equipment is in use and/or stored.

- Spark or friction-generating equipment such as friction toys, grinding tools, electric shavers, hair dryers, etc. should not be used while using oxygen or in the presence of the oxygen equipment.



- Keep oxygen cylinders at least **1.5 metres (5 feet)** from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices.



- Candles, stoves, matches, woodstoves or any device with an open flame can be ignition sources and should not be used in the home.

- Body oil, hand lotion and items containing oil and grease can easily burn. Keep oil and grease away where oxygen is in use.
- Petroleum jelly, oily lotions, face creams, or hair products should not be used when using oxygen. Keep hands oil-free when handling oxygen equipment.
- Aerosol sprays containing combustible materials should not be used near oxygen equipment or while using oxygen.