

## 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, as per the Alberta Fire Code;

### 2.4.2. Smoking

#### 2.4.2.1. Smoking Areas

- 1) Smoking shall not be permitted in areas where conditions are such as to make smoking a fire or explosion hazard.
- 2) An area where smoking is not permitted in Sentence (1) shall be identified by signs conforming to Article 2.4.2.2.

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 meters (5 feet) from any heat source – including open flames and 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.

Last updated/reviewed March 2018

For more information, please call Municipal Affairs, Safety Services at 1-866-421-6929 or visit [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca)

## What are the risks?

Oxygen users must take precautions because anything that burns (i.e. 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, bedding, etc. 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.