

Heritage Care at Home Ltd

Oxygen Use Policy

Policy reviewed and valid from: 01/01/20



Purpose

To ensure Heritage Care at Home Ltd staff use, safe practices when oxygen is in a Customer's home.

Scope

When oxygen is supplied via either cylinder or piped service directly into a Customer's home.

Policy

Heritage care at Home Ltd staff will be informed of the enhanced fire risk which arises from oxygen in a confined space, and where oxygen absorbing combustible fabric is in use.

Procedure

For Heritage Care at Home Ltd to carry out risk assessment in Customer's home. Heritage Care at Home Ltd will review staff training to ensure all staff are fully aware of safety requirements when dealing with oxygen in Customer's home. E.g staff will not use any petroleum based products on Customer's face. A copy of this policy and procedure will be placed in Customer's home.

General notes on oxygen safety

Smoking and the use of Oxygen are incompatible and if a Customer (or others) smokes while using Oxygen they put themselves, their surroundings, the property, connected properties and others in any of these areas at great risk. If a customer is found to smoke while using Oxygen, this must be reported through Suffolk County Council incident reporting procedure. The line manager should report this to the supplier of the Oxygen, who will contact the customer and their GP and this may result in their supply of Oxygen being terminated (such is the risk). Employees delivering a service to customers are also at risk in an environment where customers smoke while using Oxygen; the service may have to be suspended until the risk has been controlled.

Oxygen is colourless, odourless and tasteless gas which is essential to life but Oxygen can be a potentially hazardous substance. Although it is non-flammable, oxygen vigorously supports combustion and materials burn more readily in an oxygen-enriched environment. Matches, cigarette lighters, burning tobacco and candles must be eliminated from the room where the oxygen unit is being used or stored.

The no smoking signs provided with provided with the set up should be posted to insure the above are observed at all times. Cylinders should not be placed near heat sources, electric or gas heaters or open flames; the minimum distance is 10 ft. Avoid using electric razors and hair dryers while using oxygen. Anything battery operated (less than 10 volts) is ok. Avoid nylon or woollen clothing as it can cause static electricity. Oxygen is basically a safe gas since it is non-flammable. However mixed with petroleum products, lotions or creams oxygen can become a flammable gas. Avoid having these flammable materials near or on the unit.

Protect the main valve by keeping the cylinder upright and secure in the box or in the cart. Exercise care when transporting portable cylinders. If a cylinder is being transported in a vehicle make sure they are secure to prevent them from moving or falling if there is a sudden stop.

When using, maintain adequate ventilation.