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'Suraksha Bhavan,'

Directorate of Factories & Boilers,
Kumarapuram, Medical College P.O,
Thiruvananthapuram – 11,

Phone: 0471 2441597

E-mail: directorate.fab@kerala.gov.in

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Subject : - Covid 19 - Safety Measures in Storage and Handling of Oxygen Cylinders- Reg.

A. SAFE STORAGE

1. Oxygen cylinders shall be stored in a segregated and approved area only.
2. Storage area shall be dry, cool, well-ventilated and away from incompatible materials like oil, grease, reducing agents and combustible materials. Storage area shall be free of any risk of fire and away from sources of heat or ignition.
3. The area shall be free of materials facilitating corrosion of cylinders such as battery acids.
4. Cylinders should be stored upright, with valve protection cap in place, and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Oxygen cylinders can quickly turn into rocket if dropped, shearing of isolation valve.
5. Keep container tightly closed and sealed until ready for use.
6. Make sure that appropriate Fire Extinguisher shall be readily available and easily accessible.
7. Emergency Exits (With doors open outwards) shall be marked legibly.
8. Smoke alarms /fire detection system shall be provided in the area where oxygen cylinder is stored /used.
9. Places where oxygen is stored in liquid or gaseous form should be marked clearly and legibly, providing information related to potential hazard.
10. Full and empty cylinders shall be stored separately and mark the area accordingly.

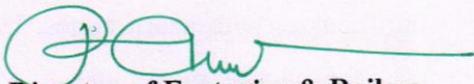
B. SAFE HANDLING

11. All oxygen cylinders shall be handled carefully. Do not lift them by valve cover. It could be damaged and become unattached. If the cylinder is dropped on hard surface it can cause explosion.
12. Protect them from physical damage. Do not drag, roll, slide, drop cylinders or they do not come into contact with sharp edges. Use a suitable hand truck or a purpose-built trolley should be used for cylinder movement.

13. Do not smoke near the oxygen equipment/cylinder. Never carry any flammable materials, match boxes, lighter etc. inside oxygen handling area
14. Prevent the entry of any dirt, grit of any sort, oil or any other lubricant into the cylinder valves.
15. Do not lubricate the cylinder valve with alcoholic solutions, oil or grease to come into contact with oxygen supply devices.
16. Stored containers should be periodically checked with respect to their general state and tightness, and use cylinders with caps or valve covers.
17. Access to cylinders containing oxygen should be controlled. Unauthorized persons may not have any opportunity of handling valves.
18. Check that all electrical equipment in the vicinity of the oxygen is properly earthed.
19. Use the correct pressure gauge and regulator. Always remember to open slowly but open fully.
20. Stand to one side and not in front or behind regulator when opening cylinder valve.
21. Close valve after each use and when empty.
22. Do not transport cylinders with regulator connected.
23. When the cylinder is almost empty, close the valve and mark the cylinder as empty.
24. Employees hired to work in execution of processes that make use of liquid oxygen should not wear any jewellery, watches etc. In the event of emission of liquid oxygen into the environment, this would help prevent potential frostbite.
25. Surgical spirit if used in the oxygen handling area shall be kept under safe custody in closed bottles as it may cause accidental initiation of fire.
26. The filling of oxygen should proceed slowly to avoid the occurrence of thermal shock sustained by structural materials.
27. It is inadmissible to use the same hose to convey flammables gases and later for oxygen. Remnants of flammable gas may form an explosive mixture.

C. SAFE USAGE OF OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR

1. Always plug your concentrator into an earthed electrical outlet. Never use an extension cord or power board
2. As the oxygen concentrator becomes hot when in use, locate it in a well ventilated area, away from curtains or drapes.
3. Have your oxygen concentrator inspected and serviced regularly according to the supplier's instructions.


Director of Factories & Boilers