

# Medical Oxygen Safety

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 breath. Fire needs oxygen to burn. If a fire should start in an oxygen-enriched area, the material burning will burn more quickly.

Homes where medical oxygen is used need specific fire safety rules to keep people safe from fire and burns.

## SAFETY TIPS

- » There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. If a patient is on oxygen, they should not smoke.
- » Candles, matches, wood stoves and even sparking toys, can be ignition sources and should not be used in the home.
- » Keep oxygen cylinders at least five feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices.
- » Body oil, hand lotion and items containing oil and grease can easily ignite. Keep oil and grease away where oxygen is in use.
- » Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.

## FACTS

- ! Oxygen saturates fabric covered furniture, clothing, hair and bedding, making it easier for a fire to start and spread.
- ! Smoking materials is the leading heat source resulting in medical oxygen related fires, injuries and deaths.



Post “**No Smoking**” and “**No Open Flames**” signs in and outside the home to remind people not to smoke.