



Oxygen Safety — Poster and Cylinder Log

Oxygen does not burn, but everything near it does. The rules for cylinders, concentrators and piped oxygen, and the log that prevents running out at 3 a.m.

OXYGEN — NO FLAME · NO OIL · NO FALL

Rule	Because
No smoking, no open flame, no spark within 3 m of oxygen in use or stored — including candles, heaters and mobile phones being charged	Oxygen-enriched air makes fabric, hair and plastic burn violently
No oil, grease, hand cream or alcohol gel on cylinder valves, regulators or hands that handle them	Hydrocarbons ignite spontaneously in high-pressure oxygen
Cylinders always secured upright in a stand, chain or trolley — never free-standing, never lying down in use	A falling cylinder can shear the valve and become a projectile
Open valves slowly; close the valve when not in use; never force a regulator	Sudden pressure can ignite the regulator
Full and empty cylinders stored separately, labelled, in a ventilated locked store away from heat and combustibles	Prevents using an empty cylinder in an emergency
Transport in a trolley, never rolled or dragged; never in a lift with people if avoidable	Handling injuries and valve damage
Concentrators: filters cleaned weekly; not covered; flow checked with the oximeter on the patient	A blocked concentrator delivers room air
Piped oxygen: know the zone shut-off valves and who may operate them; test the alarm monthly	A fire may require isolating a zone

Cylinder log

Date	Cylinder ID · size	Location	Contents (bar / %)	Status: full / in use / empty	Checked by	Exchanged (date)	Note

72-hour supply check (weekly). Patients on oxygen ____ × average flow ____ L/min × 60 × 72 = ____ L needed. Cylinder contents (litres = bar × water capacity) + concentrator capacity = ____ L available. If available < needed: order today; this is a Crisis-category Universal Floor item.

ASF standards: Standard 3 — oxygen safety (means of verification: poster, log, supply calculation); Emergency preparedness