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## Liquid Oxygen Safety

- NO SMOKING! Do not allow residents, visitors or staff members with portable oxygen equipment near smoking areas, or near any source of spark or open flame.
- Liquid oxygen portable units may only be filled in the O<sub>2</sub> room, do not fill them in resident rooms. This is a state regulation.
- Make sure liquid oxygen portables are stored in an upright position. Liquid oxygen inside the portable will leak out if the portable tips over!
- Do not use oil or petroleum based products on oxygen equipment or on residents who are on oxygen.
- Liquid oxygen is a pale blue liquid that is stored at -300 degrees Fahrenheit. Skin exposed to liquid oxygen will suffer a frostbite thermal injury that is almost identical to a burn. If skin is exposed to liquid oxygen, the appropriate first aid treatment is to flush the area with tepid (not hot) water, and seek immediate medical attention.
- Liquid oxygen portables are designed to be safely filled according to manufacturer and FDA guidelines without the need for personal protective equipment (PPE). Some facility policies or fire department regulations require the use of PPE anyway. Always use PPE when filling liquid oxygen portables if required:
  - Eye protection (face shield or goggles)
  - Hand protection (loose fitting leather gloves that can be removed quickly if liquid oxygen leaks inside them)
  - Hearing protection
  - Clothing/Splash protection (leather apron)
- The liquid oxygen portable may freeze to the liquid oxygen stationary tank during the filling process. If this occurs, DO NOT FORCE THEM APART. Allow the equipment to gradually warm up and it will thaw and disconnect easily.
- To prevent most incidents of liquid oxygen portables freezing you must wipe any moisture from the fill connection on both the portable and the large stationary tank with a clean dry cloth. Condensation of the moisture in the air onto the filling connections occurs every time a portable is filled. Any residual moisture will cause the equipment to freeze together the next time it is filled unless it is wiped clean.
- On rare occasions a valve may freeze open during the filling process, and liquid oxygen may drip or even spray out of the oxygen equipment. If this occurs, do not attempt to fix the leak! Back away from the equipment, leave the room and warn staff members to not enter the room until the leak stops. Call Premier Medical to check the equipment for any malfunctions.
- Please make sure when you fill the liquid portables that you give the correct portable back to each resident. If this does not occur it creates an infection control issue and *cross contamination*.