



OREGON

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State fire marshal warns against smoking while using oxygen systems

Recently, a near fatal accident has prompted the Office of State Fire Marshal to remind Oregonians not to smoke while using oxygen systems or while near other persons using oxygen systems.

On April 15, 2008, a resident of a Eugene nursing home ignited his face, hair and bedding after lighting a cigarette while using his portable oxygen concentrator. The victim is expected to survive after being treated at a Eugene area hospital.

“People who smoke while using oxygen are exposing themselves to a significant burn injury risk,” states State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr. “Many people with respiratory problems use portable and home oxygen systems. Smoking in these environments should be strictly prohibited.”

In addition, the Office of State Fire Marshal advises oxygen systems be kept at least 20 feet from open flames or other sources of heat.

“Unfortunately, there are smokers who think Oregon’s new fire-safer cigarettes protect them in dangerous circumstances,” says Orr. “Even with fire-safer cigarettes, smokers must use common sense before lighting up.”

Oregonians are reminded to install smoke alarms on every level of their home, in every bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Check smoke alarms monthly and replace any alarms 10 years old or older. For more smoke alarm and fire safety information, contact your local fire department or visit http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Smoke_Alarms_Home.shtml.

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