

Crenshaw Community Hospital Policies and Procedures	Policy Number #AHW.800.0030	Effective Date 03/05/20
	Revision Date	Review Date
Manual: Administrative Housewide		
Title: Storage of Medical Gases Within the Facility	Chief Of Staff	
	Administrator	

Purpose

Establish guidelines in the storage of medical gases including oxygen

Policy

Storage of medical gas tanks will follow the guidelines indicated by the NFPA. According to the NFPA, storage of medical gas tanks is dependent on the size of the tank. At Crenshaw Community Hospital, the standard size oxygen tank is the Type E tank, which is about three feet tall. The Type E tank is rated at about 23-25 cubic feet of Oxygen per tank, and when using for a patient at 2 liters per minute, will last about 5-6 hours. Tanks of oxygen must be stored in a lockable room. Type E tanks will follow the storage criteria below:

- Cylinders that are in use are not considered to be in storage. Cylinders that **are** in use **must be** in a cylinder stand or cart, or they must be attached to a medical device. With either, the tank must be secured in such a method designed for the tank.
- When empty and full cylinders are stored together in the same room, empty cylinders must be segregated from full cylinders.
- Empty cylinders must be marked and placed in a rack designated for empty cylinders. If you have a partially full cylinder and you do not have a portable cart to place it in while not in use, it may be placed in the cart with empty cylinders.
- Signage must be displayed on each door of each storage room and must be readable from five feet away. The signs must include the following verbiage:

**CAUTION:
OXYGEN STORED INSIDE
NO SMOKING**

- A tank is considered “Not Full” when the seal is broken, therefore it cannot be stored with full tanks, therefore any tank with the seal removed is considered “not full.”
- A maximum of 12 full Type E oxygen tanks may be stored in any given location designated as “Oxygen Storage.” Tanks that are in use or partially used in single stands are not considered part of this maximum storage.
- Each storage rack must have signage attached that clearly indicates whether it contains full or empty cylinders.
- **No other flammable gas or liquid may be stored in any room with oxygen storage.**