



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	Safety alert on use of medical oxygen cylinders
Document ID:	32/19-20
Date:	1/11/2019
Subject:	Safe use of medical oxygen cylinders
Summary:	Due to WorkSafe WA recommendation, SLSA has adopted a new action plan when changing oxygen cylinders.

Background:

Previous training on safe operations of oxygen bottles has included the process of 'cracking' a cylinder prior to fitting the regulator. Due to a recent incident, WorkSafe WA has issued a safety alert to stop the practice of 'cracking'. As a result SLSA in consultation with the Medical Advisory Group and BOC has adopted a new action plan when changing oxygen cylinders.

Action required

The new procedure for the setup and use of medical oxygen cylinders:

1. If replacing the oxygen cylinder, remove the empty cylinder.
2. Ensure there is no sand in the cylinder cradle / regulator and that the bodok washer is in good repair and replace if necessary.
3. Remove the wrapping from the new cylinder and insert into the cradle aligning with the docking pins (without cracking the new cylinder).
4. Tighten the cradle screw /regulator.
5. Turn on the new bottle and ensure that it is full and there are no leaks as oxygen goes through the regulator.

DO NOT crack the cylinder; or open the valve before the regulator is fitted to the cylinder.

It is important to read and comply with the supplier's instructions for all gas products. If difficulties occur when fitting the regulator to the cylinder, or if further information is required, contact the cylinder supplier and regulator supplier before acting. There could be a mismatch or damage to locator pins, so it is important to identify the problem rather than apply force.

Further information

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/safety-alert-042019-safe-use-medical-oxygen-cylinders>

Surf Life Saving Australia

Level 1, 1 Notts Avenue t. +61 2 9215 8000
Bondi Beach, NSW 2026 f. +61 2 9215 8180
PO Box 7773 w. sls.com.au
Bondi Beach, NSW 2026 ABN 67 449 738 159