

Tip of the Month

The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recommends bus operators take precautions to safely transport medical oxygen.



U.S. DOT guidance for the safe transport of medical oxygen for personal use

In the passenger cabin

Transport oxygen in the passenger cabin only as a medical necessity

Transport oxygen in a cylinder maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and precautions usually printed on an attached label.

Inspect each cylinder and do not load any showing cracks, dents, gouges or pits, especially around the valve area and pressure relief device. Listen for leaks and do not load leaking cylinders on the bus.

Whenever possible, limit the number of cylinders in the passenger compartment to one per person.

Carry an oxygen cylinder carefully using both hands. Never drag or roll a cylinder, or carry by the valve or regulator.

Do not handle oxygen cylinders or apparatus with hands or gloves contaminated with oil or grease.

Secure each cylinder in an upright position to prevent movement and leakage.

Do not restrict access to exits or use of the aisle with an oxygen cylinder.

Do not seat passengers requiring oxygen on the aisle.

Secure each cylinder away from sources of heat or potential sparks.

At the destination, immediately remove all cylinders from the bus.

In the cargo compartment

Place each cylinder in a box or crate, or load and transport in an upright position.

The total weight for oxygen cylinders permitted in a bus cargo compartment is 99 pounds (45 kilograms).

For further information, contact PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Information Center at 1-800-HMR-4922.

Robert A. McGuire

Associate
Administrator for
Hazardous Materials
Safety

