

## Need Help to Quit Smoking?

There is **FREE** help for you!

### Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline

The Helpline offers free one-on-one support, information about local smoking cessation groups, and advice about medications that help you to quit using tobacco. Visit online at [www.mass.gov/quitting](http://www.mass.gov/quitting) or call:

**1-800-QUIT-NOW**

1-800-784-8669 (English)

**1-855-DÉJALO-YA**

1-855-335-3569 (Español)

**Dial 711 for TTY**

Phone lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### American Cancer Society

1-800-227-2345

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

### American Lung Association

[www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)

### Resources for Massachusetts Elders

1-800-Age-Info (1-800-243-4636)

Executive Office of Elder Affairs

**Oxygen + Smoking  
is dangerous**

**Oxygen + Fire  
is deadly!**

"Smoking in homes where people use oxygen starts many fires each year that cause deaths and injuries to patients, family members, neighbors and pets.

These fires force whole families and other building tenants out of their homes, destroy a lifetime's possessions and cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage."

*Peter J. Ostroskey*  
State Fire Marshal

## Using Home Oxygen Safely



### A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR

Patients and Families  
Doctors, Nurses and Therapists,  
First Responders



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
978-567-3381 • [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)

March 2022

HRIA Clearinghouse FR4500

**Department of Fire Services**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## What You and Your Family Should Know

Using home oxygen increases the risk of fires and burns.

When oxygen is used in the home, the amount of oxygen in the air, furniture, clothing and hair goes up, making it easier for a fire to start and spread.

When more oxygen is in the air, fires will burn hotter and faster.

When using home oxygen, learn how to handle it safely– especially if you smoke.

It is important to keep home oxygen and tubing 10 feet away from heat sources.

Common heat sources are:

- Matches
- Lighters
- Cigarettes
- Candles
- Gas stoves
- Appliances
- Electric razors
- Hair dryers
- Heaters

Don't use flammable products such as:

- Oils
- Grease
- Petroleum products
- Oil based lip balms or lotions

## For Doctors, Nurses and Therapists

Smoking while using home oxygen is not just a personal health hazard but a public safety danger. It puts everyone in the building at risk.

Encourage and help your patients to quit smoking.

Help patients to understand the fire dangers of home oxygen use.

More information for health care providers on smoking cessation is available at [www.mass.gov/quitting](http://www.mass.gov/quitting).



## Home Fire Safety

Your family should help make sure your home has working smoke alarms.

You and your family should make and practice a home escape plan.

## Smoking Issues

No one should smoke in your home. The fire danger is too great.

You should not smoke.

Your family and friends should not smoke around you.

Quitting is the best thing you can do for your health and safety.

If you must smoke:

1. Disconnect the oxygen.
2. Wait 10 minutes.
3. Go outside to smoke.

This gives the oxygen time to come off your hair and clothes into the open air.

This is not a safe way to smoke but is less risky than smoking indoors.

