

Oxygen Equipment and Related Training Requirements at Worksites

OHS information for employers

Introduction

Under Alberta's OHS Code 2009, oxygen equipment is a specified requirement of a first aid room. Work sites requiring a first aid room are a) medium hazard sites with 200 or more workers, and b) high hazard sites with 100 or more workers. At other work sites, deciding to use and have oxygen equipment may be part of a first aid response, based on a hazard assessment and work site requirements.

What do I need to know?

Anyone using oxygen equipment must be competent or be under the supervision of a competent worker (adequately qualified and suitably trained) as defined by OHS legislation. Under the OHS Code requirements, work sites required to have a first aid room must also have a First Aider with a minimum of an Advanced First Aid (AFA) certificate. Training on the use of oxygen equipment is a mandatory component of Alberta's AFA training standard. Work sites having oxygen equipment based on a hazard assessment and work site requirements may not require a minimum of an Advanced First Aider, but this does not exempt a requirement for workers to be competent if they use the oxygen equipment.

To be considered suitably trained, anyone using oxygen equipment at work sites must have training for the oxygen equipment and administration with the same components as required in the AFA level training. Only well-trained instructors should give training.

Anyone administering oxygen as part of a first aid response at work sites should receive training that includes:

- review of the normal respiratory cycle;
- both one and two-rescuer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR);
- principles, operation and proper use of equipment used for oxygen delivery;
- indications and contraindications for use of oxygen at work sites;
- calculation of how long oxygen in a cylinder will last;
- care and maintenance of oxygen cylinders;
- information on Regulations and Standards that apply to oxygen delivery equipment;
- safety precautions to be used in handling oxygen cylinders;
- a procedure for administration which includes demonstrating and practicing delivery of oxygen;
- demonstrating and practicing inserting an oral pharyngeal airway (OPA);
- demonstrating and practicing suctioning of the mouth;
- demonstrating and practicing ventilation of a bag-valve-mask; and
- explanation of pulse oximetry, why it is used, indications for pulse oximetry, normal range for oxygen saturation and if less than normal what it indicates, factors that may produce less accurate readings and considerations for using pulse oximetry at a work site.

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Contact Us

OHS Contact Centre

Edmonton & Surrounding area

- 780-415-8690

Throughout Alberta

- 1-866-415-8690

Deaf or hearing impaired:

- 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)
- 1-800-232-7215 (Alberta)

Website

work.alberta.ca/ohs-contact-us

Get Copies of OHS Act, Regulation and Code

Alberta Queen's Printer

www.qp.gov.ab.ca

Occupational Health and Safety

work.alberta.ca/ohs-legislation

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[First Aid Records \(FA009\)](#)

[Quality Management Plan Requirements for First Aid Training in Alberta Workplaces \(FA010\)](#)

[Workplace First Aiders and Legal Requirements \(FA011\)](#)

[Developing a First Aid Plan \(FA012\)](#)

[Medication in First Aid Kits \(FA014\)](#)

[Automated External Defibrillators in the Workplace \(FA015\)](#)

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