Loss of Medical Gas (Oxygen, Compressed Air)

Purpose

To provide a plan of action and define responsibilities in the event the hospital should experience a local or house wide loss of medical oxygen or compressed air, emergency gas will be provided to the affected areas on a temporary basis until the system can be returned to on-line status.

Scope

- Respiratory Care Services (RCS) is responsible for the distribution, set-up, and checking of cylinder gas sources in the affected area(s) during the emergency period.
- All Respiratory Care Service staff involved with the distribution of cylinder gases will have completed check-off on the use, handling, and storage of cylinder gases.

Indications

- The acute, unscheduled loss of pipeline medical gases, either oxygen or air.
- The purposeful loss of pipeline medical gases (pipeline repair, upgrading, etc.).

Goals

To provide an emergency source of medical gases that are necessary for the proper patient care and operation of gas powered equipment.

Equipment

- "H" and "E" size cylinder of medical oxygen and/or air.
- Appropriate fixed diameter and/or adjustable wrenches.
- Appropriate cylinder gauges and stands.
- High-pressure hoses (when necessary).

Procedure

During Regular Office Hours:

Step	Action
1	Contact Respiratory Care Services department dispatcher, extension 21635.
2	Inform dispatcher of location and areas affected.
3	Provide a list of patients on oxygen or air delivery devices.
4	Respiratory Care Services will dispatch the placement of oxygen, air cylinders, **and/or LOX Transport units** to the affected area(s).
5	Respiratory Care Services will set-up, connect, and monitor cylinder gas source in the affected area.
6	Respiratory Care Services will contact Physical Plant - Plumbing Department to further assess problems and determine measures to be undertaken.

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Procedure Continued

After regular office hours:

Step	Action
1	Contact Respiratory Care Services dispatcher, extension 21635, if no answer, beep Team Leader on duty, 0975.
2	Follow step 2-3 above.
3	Respiratory Care Services will dispatch the placement of cylinder gases **or LOX transporter units** to the affected area(s).
4	Team Leader on duty will contact Respiratory Care Services administrator on call.
5	Respiratory Care Services administrator on call will coordinate activity with Physical Plant - Plumbing Superintendent/Supervisor regarding measures to be taken (refer to Physical Plant Disaster Plan 5.11 and 5.15).

References

UTMB Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures Emergency Shut-Off of Oxygen Zone Valves in UTMB Hospitals Policy # 9.13.23 http://www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/09-13-23.pdf

UTMB Emergency Procedures Manual: Loss of Medical Gas and/or Medical Air http://webb.utmb.edu/envcare/epm.htm

UTMB Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures: Sentinel Events Policy # 9.13.16, http://www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/09-13-16.pdf

JCAHO: Management of the Environment of Care; EC.1.7, Medical Gas Management http://www.utmb.edu/JCAHO/