

HAZARD ALERT

Oxygen Regulators

Replace Aluminum Regulators

In February 1999, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have issued a joint Public Health Advisory on this hazard.

“Over the past 5 years, FDA has received 16 reports of aluminum regulators used with oxygen cylinders burning or exploding. These incidents caused severe burns to 11 health care workers and patients. Many of the incidents occurred during emergency medical use or during routine equipment checkout. FDA and [NIOSH] believe that the aluminum in these regulators was a major factor in both the ignition and severity of the fires, although there are likely other contributing factors.”

For more information, see the following web sites for related documents:

<http://www.fda.gov>

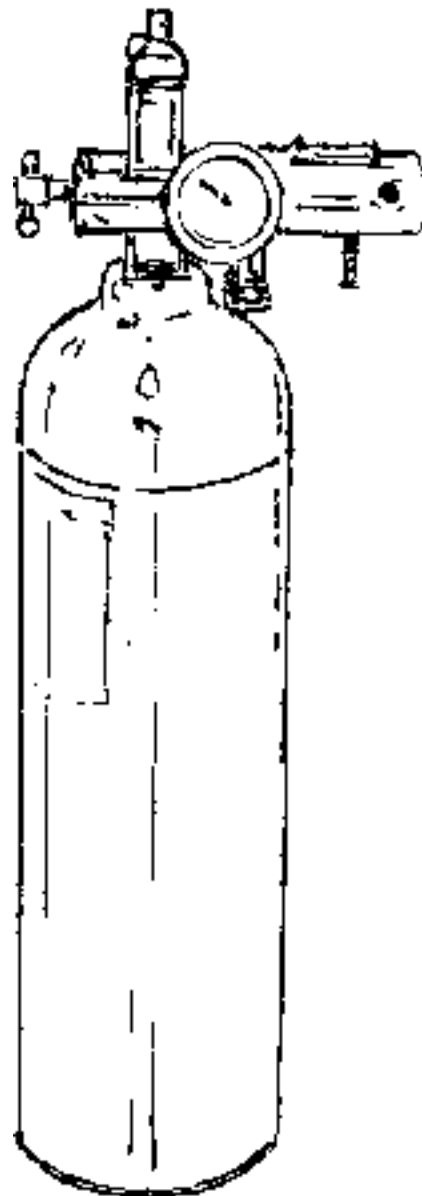
- FDA and NIOSH Public Health Advisory: Explosions and Fires in Aluminum Oxygen Regulators

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

- 98 F-23 Oxygen Regulator Flash Severely Burns One Fire Fighter - Florida
- 98 F-24 Emergency Medical Technician Receives Serious Burns from an Oxygen Regulator Flash Fire - South Carolina

Safe work practices:

- Replace high-pressure oxygen regulators containing aluminum with regulators made of brass. Consult the manufacturer if you don't know what material is used in your regulators.
- Ensure workers are trained in the safe use of oxygen equipment and follow manufacturers' instructions for proper use of the equipment.



D-size cylinder with aluminum oxygen regulator

INJURY
00-02