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Many with breathing difficulties use oxygen to help make their lives more comfortable, but after a recent house explosion where oxygen was in use, some may be concerned.

According to Wright & Fillipis oxygen providers' web site, oxygen is not flammable and will not explode. Oxygen can, however, support combustion and allow items to burn more easily and quickly.

Taking precautions will help ensure that oxygen is used effectively for a patient, which includes not using oxygen in a confined space. It should only be used in a well-ventilated area.

Oxygen should also be stored in the open, never in a closet or car trunk.

Those using oxygen should also avoid using oily substances like Vaseline, lip balms, lotions, etc., around the nose. Oxygen can react with petroleum based products and produce burns.

There should never be open flames around oxygen, including fireplaces, matches, stoves, etc.

Smoking is never acceptable by a patient on oxygen or by anyone in the same room of an oxygen system, according to oxygen safety literature obtained by the Leader & Times.

Friction toys and electric razors are also problematic as they can provide a spark.