

Noble Transit System  
Passenger Policy Manual  
561 South Main Street, Kendallville, IN 46755

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SUBJECT: PASSENGERS WITH PORTABLE OXYGEN BREATHING AIDS      SECTION: SAFETY

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/15/2023      REPLACES: 01/01/2011  
APPROVED BY: Board of Directors  
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DIRECTIVE:

To provide guidance on transporting passengers using portable oxygen breathing aids.

PROCEDURE:

Passengers should inform the scheduler at time of reservation that a portable oxygen breathing aid will be transported with the passenger. Noble Transit will follow the guidance established by the NTSB for the safe transportation of portable oxygen units on transit vehicles.

- ◆ Only transport oxygen in a cylinder maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The manufacturer's instructions and precautions are usually printed on a label attached to the cylinder.
- ◆ Limit the number of cylinders to be transported on board the vehicle to the extent practicable.
- ◆ Except in emergency situations, the van operator should consider limiting the number of passengers using medical oxygen on each vehicle.
- ◆ Secure each cylinder to prevent movement and leakage. "Secured" means the cylinder is not free to move when the vehicle is in motion. Each cylinder should be equipped with a valve protection cap.
- ◆ Never store or secure oxygen cylinders or other medical support equipment in the aisle. Make sure that the seat of the passenger requiring oxygen does not restrict access to exits or use of the aisle.
- ◆ Since the release of oxygen from a cylinder could accelerate a fire, secure each cylinder away from sources of heat or potential sparks.

Drivers will be aware of the features and problems associated with portable oxygen aids. All drivers will receive training on the features of portable oxygen tanks during new hire training. Specific procedures will be available as necessary. The following general procedures will apply to most portable oxygen aids:

- Drivers will secure all oxygen containers during transportation by the most secure means available.
- Containers commonly secured to a mobility device may stay in those securements.
- Containers attached to mobility aids such as walkers must be separately secured to the vehicle by the most secure means available.
- Spare tanks must be secured to the vehicle by the most secure means available.
- Oxygen Tank locking securements are available in the garage.

Passengers are to be advised by dispatch of the estimated length of the trip and the time that the passenger is expected to be on the vehicle. This may impact the quantity of oxygen the passenger requires.

**Drivers are not permitted to connect hoses, disconnect hoses, or change oxygen tanks.**

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Drivers are responsible for the safe securement of oxygen tanks on Noble Transit vehicles.