

## Oxygen Tank Replacement

By Karen Owens

The introduction of the CPAP into the ambulance has increased use of oxygen – both portable and ambulance based systems. When CPAP is used in a field setting with a delayed time in loading the patient into the ambulance, the potential exists that you will have to change out the oxygen tank in the middle of the call with minimal time and a patient's health as added stressors. Are you ready for that?

### Items Needed

New oxygen tank (with seal)  
Oxygen regulator  
Oxygen tank key  
Oxygen delivery device (non-rebreather, nasal cannula, oxygen tubing)

### Directions

Take seal of tank and retain gasket  
Open and close valve (quickly) to blow out any dust or debris that may have accumulated  
Replace gasket in O2 regulator with new one  
Line up pin indicator of regulator with tank and secure the regulator tightly  
Slowly open oxygen tank and listen for leak. If there is a leak, turn off oxygen, tighten regulator and try again.  
Secure oxygen tubing and set oxygen flow rate and secure tub



### Challenge Yourself

Want to make the drill a little harder? Try changing the regulator with different types of gloves:

Patient care gloves  
Extrication Gloves  
Firefighting gloves

Oxygen cylinders may need to be changed out in any situation, including at a motor vehicle crash with long-term extrication or at the scene of a fire while providing direct patient care to a firefighter in super heated turnout gear. Always prepare for every potential!

Also – Consider timing yourself to see how quickly each crew member can do the task!