SafetyVantage

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PREPARE FOR OXYGEN HAZARDS!

Oxygen deficient atmospheres are a leading cause of incidents and fatalities in confines spaces. Make sure you know what to do when you're faced with them.

Normal air contains
20.9 - 21% OXYGEN

Oxygen-deficient atmospheres contain **LESS than 19.5% oxygen**

Oxygen-enriched air contains **OVER 21% OXYGEN**

Oyxgen-enriched atmospheres have serious fire and explosion risks.

OXYGEN-DEFICIENT ATMOSPHERES CAN EXIST IN AREAS:

- Where inert gases are used to displace oxygen
- Of confined spaces
- Where there are rusting metals or drying paint
- Where combustion occurs
- Where bacterial activies occur

OXYGEN-ENRICHMENT OCCURS BECAUSE OF:

- Leaking pipes, connections, and flanges when there's inadequate ventilation
- Oxygen use in cutting and welding processes
- Liquid oxygen spills or the evaporation of liquid oxygen
- Areas where oxygen vents are located

% OXYGEN	PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECT
19.5 - 16	No visible effect.
16 - 12	Increased breathing rate. Accelerated heartbeat. Impaired attention, thinking, and coordination.
14 - 10	Faulty judgement and poor muscular coordination. Muscular exertion causing rapid fatigue. Intermittent respiration.
10 - 6	Nausea and vomiting. Inability to perform vigorous movement, or loss of the ability to move. Unconsciousness, followed by death.
BELOW 6	Difficulty breathing. Convulsive movements. Death in moments.

KNOW THE RISKS OF OXYGEN-ENRICHED AND OXYGEN-DEFICIENT ATMOSPHERES, SO YOU CAN PREPARE PROPERLY.