

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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BULLETIN NO. 23-01

DATE: January 3, 2023
TO: All Idaho Fire Service Agencies
FROM: Knute C. Sandahl, State Fire Marshal
SUBJECT: Fire Safety for Hyperbaric Chambers

The Idaho State Fire Marshal has received inquiries regarding fire safety standards regarding the use of hyperbaric chambers for oxygen therapy purposes. In order to protect the public, this bulletin is intended to inform fire safety officials.

Hyperbaric chambers are regulated by the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) as adopted by the state of Idaho. Section 609.1 of the IFC requires hyperbaric facilities to be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 99, which defines a “hyperbaric facility” as a building, structure, or space used to house hyperbaric chambers and auxiliary service equipment for medical applications and procedure at pressure above normal atmospheric pressure. Chapter 14 of the NFPA Standard 99, entitled Hyperbaric Facilities incorporates the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Safety Standard for Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy, 2016 (ASME PVHO-1).

The State Fire Marshal, pursuant to Idaho Code, Title 41, Chapter 2, Section 41-254(3) interprets the IFC to request that hyperbaric chambers comply with ASME PVHO-1. Such hyperbaric facilities need to satisfy each of the requirements in IFC section 609 and NFPA 99 including, but not limited to, those related to fire suppression, fire alarms, and emergency planning. This bulletin does not apply to the use of these devices in private one and two-family dwelling units, however it is recommended that these products meet the ASME PVHO-1 listing.

Questions concerning this bulletin can be referred to:

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