

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Ancillary Block, Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006
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ORDER

No. ASDMA.28/2021/82

Dated 20th May, 2021

Whereas, there has been a recent trend amongst certain organizations like clubs, NGOs, Societies and also individuals to hoard oxygen cylinders in anticipation of meeting any future scarcity of medical oxygen.

Whereas, the surge in COVID-19 cases in the state of Assam is continuing and oxygen being the most integral part of treating critically ill COVID-19 patients, it demands that there is no disruption to the supply chain of medical oxygen.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 22(2) (h) read with Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee of the State Disaster Management Authority, Assam, hereby issues the following directives in the interest of maintaining uninterrupted supply chain of medical oxygen which shall come into force with immediate effect:


1. To ensure emergency supply of medical oxygen to critically ill COVID-19 patients, cylinders meant for medical oxygen (full or empty) shall not be hoarded anywhere by any person so as to ensure the cycle of filling-use-refilling and quick turn-around. No artificial scarcity shall be created through hoarding or other illegal means by any person or entity dealing with such cylinders.
2. Black-Marketing or unaccounted sale, profiteering by hiking the price at times of perceived scarcity and other unethical practices while dealing with life-saving medical oxygen or cylinder is strictly prohibited.
3. The Deputy Commissioners shall designate an Executive Magistrate to verify the stocks of medical oxygen cylinders available with agencies /dealers /suppliers along with the details of its distribution on a daily basis.
4. Conversion of Industrial Oxygen Cylinders and non-toxic and non-flammable gas cylinders (Nitrogen, Helium and Argon) to Medical Oxygen Cylinders shall be done strictly following the SOP approved by Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) dated 22.4.2020 (Annexure-I) and subsequent orders issued by PESO in this regard, in order to augment the number of cylinders available for medical oxygen use. **Persons or entities holding industrial cylinders of the above kind shall hand them over to the Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) or the person authorized by her / him, at the earliest.** The DDMA's may take steps to requisition and collect / seize industrial cylinders of the above kind, convert as



per SOP and use industrial cylinders (of industrial Oxygen, Nitrogen, Helium and Argon) for medical use.

5. **Penal Provisions:-**

COVID19 is a notified disaster. Violation of the above directions and hoarding of medical Oxygen cylinders (full or empty), black marketing and profiteering through illegal ways, non-disclosure of stock of Oxygen when sought by authorities under the Government and holding on to industrial cylinders (of industrial Oxygen, Nitrogen, Helium and Argon) or hoarding or hiding them when requisitioned by DDMA or persons authorized by DDMA in this regard for emergency conversion and use for medical oxygen purpose, shall be offences under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The DDMA, Police, Department of Industries, Health and PESO may initiate steps against the violation of the these orders under Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of IPC and other applicable laws.


(Jishnu Barua, IAS)
Chief Secretary, Assam.
Dated 20th May, 2021

Memo No. ASDMA.28/2021/82-A

Copy forwarded to:

1. All Additional Chief Secretaries to the Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6
2. The Director General of Police, Assam
3. All Principal Secretaries/Commissioner & Secretaries to the Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6
4. Commissioner of Police, Guwahati-6
5. The Principal Secretaries of BTC, NCHAC, KAAC.
6. All Deputy Commissioners
7. The Director, Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Assam
8. All Superintendent of Police
9. S.O to the Chief Secretary, Assam, Guwahati-6
10. PPS to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam
11. All P.S to Hon'ble Minister, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6


(Gyanendra Tripathi, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer, ASDMA
20/5/2021