



OPS-SOP- 13	Revision #: 02	Implementation Date: 2019-08-16	Last Reviewed/ Update Date: 2019-08-16	Page #: 1 of 2 Appendix 1 (p3)
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## Standard Operating Procedure: OXYGEN DEPLETION MONITOR

### ALARM RESPONSE

**Purpose:** to provide step by step guidance on how to respond if the oxygen depletion monitor alarm sounds.

**Procedure:**

- 1) Treat all alarms as real
- 2) **NEVER unplug or disable oxygen sensor alarm**
- 3) O2 alarm will sound if oxygen levels drop below 19.5%.
- 4) **If alarm sounds, evacuate the room IMMEDIATELY and close the door.** Post the sign (refer to appendix 1, page 3 of this SOP) outside the door of the laboratory to ensure nobody enters the room.
- 5) During business hours, immediately contact the DOTS, Grace Flock @ **647-444-3596**.
- 6) If you are unable to reach the DOTS, or the emergency is after hours call F&S hotline @**8-3000** (416-978-3000) after you have evacuated the room and are in a different location.
- 7) **Qualified personnel will respond and test the environmental Oxygen levels.**
- 8) **DO NOT enter until oxygen levels have been tested.**
- 9) Ensure nobody enters the room until after the alarm has stopped, and oxygen levels have been tested and are safe.
- 10) If a rescue is necessary, it is mandatory to call 911.
- 11) **Nobody should attempt to rescue without a self-contained breathing apparatus.**
- 12) If no apparent reason triggered the alarm, it is possible that the sensor may need to be replaced. Email the DOTS ([grace.flock@utoronto.ca](mailto:grace.flock@utoronto.ca)) indicating room # and a brief description of the issue after you have taken appropriate safety

precautions (refer to bullet 4) . In addition, inform your supervisor.

The table below illustrates the symptoms an individual will feel when exposed to an area with reduced oxygen levels. Effects may vary due to age.

<b>Physiological Effects of Reduced Oxygen</b>	
<b>Oxygen Percentage Available</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>
21	Normal conditions, no effect.
19.5	OSHA oxygen-deficient atmosphere.
17	Muscular impairment, rapid breaths.
12	Dizziness, headache, rapid fatigue.
9	Unconsciousness.
7 to 6	Difficulty breathing, death in minutes

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Appendix 1

