Oxygen-Sensing Devices

Rooms that have a nitrogen supply outlet are equipped with Oxygen-Sensing Devices. Oxygen-Sensing Devices constantly measure the level of oxygen within rooms. If the oxygen level falls below 19.5%, an automatic solenoid valve cuts nitrogen flow to the room and an alarm / strobe activates to warn workers to exit the room.

If an Oxygen-Sensing Device activates:

1. Immediately exit the room and DO NOT RE-ENTER THE ROOM,
2. Open room door(s) to a “fully-open” position to help ventilate the room,
3. Immediately notify a shift coordinator, supervisor or maintenance person.

   A maintenance person equipped with an air-sampling meter will then:
4. Enter the room when the oxygen level has stabilized,
5. Determine the cause of the alarm,
6. Correct or repair the cause of the alarm,
7. Reset the solenoid valve that controls nitrogen flow to the room,
8. OK re-entry into the room.

Some rooms share a single solenoid valve... Example: 2B Lower & 2B Upper share a solenoid valve. A low oxygen level alarm in 2B Upper will stop nitrogen flow to 2B Lower, even though the oxygen level in 2B Lower is normal. Notify your supervisor or maintenance personnel if nitrogen has been turned off by an Oxygen-Sensing Device from another room.

Nitrogen lines are capped off and labeled in rooms where nitrogen is not required. Capped nitrogen lines have a label that reads “DO NOT OPEN A CAPPED NITROGEN LINE UNTIL AFTER OXYGEN-SENSING EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN INSTALLED.” Notify maintenance or the supervisor if you find a capped nitrogen line missing this label.

Note: This procedure is posted on doors to rooms with oxygen-sensing devices.