Oxygen tanks in an **UNOCCUPIED** wheelchair are **NOT** secure!

Please return the O2 tank to the **secured oxygen tank closet/holder**, which you can find **on the unit** (not including the West Wing) or in the **volunteer transport/escort room** (S203).

Wheelchairs cannot have an O2 tank if they are unoccupied because they can be tipped or knocked over.
(NOT secured in the O2 holder...)

(NOT Secured in the O2 holder...which is right next to where the tank is lying)
STRETCHERS are OK to have ONE O2 Tank, as long as it is placed in the designated holder.

RATIONALES:

Question 1: Oxygen tanks are considered secured:

- Unoccupied wheelchair: FALSE! This is due to the possibility of a wheelchair turning over and causing a potential explosion if the oxygen tank is hit. If you see an unoccupied wheelchair with an oxygen tank, please return the oxygen tank to the secured oxygen tank closet/holder, which you can find on the unit or in the volunteer transport/escort room (S203).

- Unoccupied stretcher: TRUE! Remember only ONE oxygen tank can be left under a stretcher at a time.

- Patient room: FALSE! All oxygen tanks should be secured in a holder or in the oxygen tank closet located in the transport/escort room (S203).

- Equipment room: FALSE! All oxygen tanks should be secured in a holder or in the oxygen tank closet located in the transport/escort room (S203).

Stay tuned for more Regulatory Readiness questions/answers/rationales in the near future. Thank you for all of your time and attention to this matter. Thank you for your participation in our goal to be regulatory ready all the time!
Smoke Zones:

Smoke Zones are designated areas that meet state requirements to limit the amount of smoke to the area from a nearby fire. These smoke zones are labeled on the threshold of any doorway that closes doors when the fire alarm goes off.

Because oxygen is highly flammable, state regulations limit the amount of O2 tanks to a smoke zone to 12. In the Lasko Tower, there are oxygen tank holders in each zone. In the West Wing, there is unfortunately limited space; O2 tanks are not typically stored here. Instead, retrieve and return O2 tanks from the volunteer transport/escort room (S203).

Rationale:

**Minimize fire risk:** Because a full cylinder with a malfunctioning valve can create an oxygen enriched environment which presents a potential fire risk, there is a limit to the number of medical gas cylinders that can be stored in egress corridors. NFPA 99-2005 Section 9.4.3 (see also CMS S&C-07-10) limits the number to 300 cubic feet (12 cylinders) of nonflammable medical gas.

Reference: