



GENERAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDER 300.13

Pet Oxygen Mask Kits

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU

Issue Date: November 05, 2018

Revision Date: N/A

1 APPLICABILITY

2 All Personnel

3 POLICY

4 The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (Department) now carries pet
5 oxygen masks intended for animal resuscitation. The kits have been donated under the
6 initiative *Project Breathe*, a national program that provides fire departments with pet oxygen
7 masks in efforts to ensure that every fire department and rescue unit is equipped with life-
8 saving pet oxygen masks. As of 2018, over 23,500 masks have been donated throughout the
9 U.S. and Canada.

10 DEFINITIONS

11 ➤ None

12 PROCEDURES

13 GENERAL:

- 14 • The kits may be used any time a pet is rescued and may benefit from being given
15 oxygen.
- 16 • There is no obligation to use the kits. However, Maryland's Good Samaritan Law was
17 amended in 2017 and now allows for first responders to provide care to rescued pets.
- 18 • The kits shall be kept on Department EMS transport units, as available.
- 19 • Each kit contains a small, medium, and large mask, a leash, and a detailed instruction
20 sheet.
- 21 • The masks are reusable, and can be cleaned with soapy water. Do not discard the
22 masks unless the mask is no longer serviceable or cleaning is not possible.
- 23 • The original acquisition of kits was through a one-time donation, so restock may not be
24 available. Check with the Quartermaster should restock become necessary.
- 25 • When the masks are used, communicate their use to the Assistant Chief of ESB and the
26 Department Public Information Officer through the chain of command. This is so that
27 the Department can appropriately notify *Project Breathe* and coordinate a public
28 information release.



Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services GENERAL ORDER

- 29 • An instruction sheet is included with every kit that details mask sizing, mask use, and
- 30 cleaning instructions.
- 31 • Questions about the kits can be directed to the Emergency Services Bureau.

REFERENCES

- 33 • Information on *Project Breathe* can be found here:
- 34 <https://www.invisiblefence.com/why-invisible-fence/project-breathe>
- 35 • A video on using the kits and masks can be found here: <https://youtu.be/1VtEPuHrGJ8>
- 36 • MD Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings §5-614.

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

38 New General Order

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

- 40 • Attachment A: Pet Oxygen Masks Instructions

APPROVED

Daniel Merson, Interim Fire Chief
Office of the Fire Chief

Author:

James Brothers, Acting Assistant Chief
Emergency Services Bureau



Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services GENERAL ORDER

58

Attachment A

Invisible Fence Brand
InvisibleFence.com/O2

project RESPIRE

McCULLOCH Medical
McCullochMedical.com

WAG'N
PetOxygenMasks.org

PET OXYGEN MASKS INSTRUCTIONS

LARGE mask
fits pets 55 lbs and over
O2 Flow Rate: 5 - 7 Liters

MEDIUM mask
fits pets 20-55 lbs
O2 Flow Rate: 3 - 5 Liters

SMALL mask
fits pets up to 20 lbs or with a short snout
O2 Flow Rate: 1 - 3 Liters

The Dual vents and a rubber mounted 22 mm oxygen adapter enable unrestricted inhalation and exhalation of air.

IF ANIMAL IS RESPONSIVE & BREATHING AFTER BEING RESCUED

1. Connect O2 source to top stopper of mask using the tubing provided.
2. Apply mask to patient's nose and mouth, creating a seal.
3. Set appropriate O2 flow rate. Pet can now breathe on its own.

**Note: Certain regulators do not allow 7 liters, jumping from 6 liters to 8 liters. Do NOT exceed 6 liters on these models. For long term insufflations, oxygen should flow through a bubble type humidifier to prevent mucosal drying.*


IF ANIMAL IS NOT BREATHING ON ITS OWN AFTER BEING RESCUED

- Remove the 22mm adapter (where the oxygen tube attaches to the mask) and apply a resuscitation bag.
- Place your finger on the vents to prevent air from escaping through the open vents. Wag'N recommends you use:
 - A Standard Pediatric or Child Ambu Bag when using the SMALL mask
 - A Child Ambu Bag when using the MEDIUM mask
 - An Adult Ambu Bag when using the LARGE mask

**Warning: Using an adult AMBU bag on a small animal may over-inflate the lungs furthering injury.*


Removing the 22 mm adapter

Pull up while tugging gently from side to side.



➔

Apply resuscitation bag



REMAIN CALM. Your body language and anxiety can be felt by the animal and will have a negative impact on its reaction towards you AND its chances of recovery.

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

The masks are NOT dishwasher proof and can melt under such high temperature. The masks and tubing should be cleaned after each use with dilute chlorhexidine solution OR mild soap and water. For best cleaning results, remove the diaphragm and 22mm adapter from the mask. Dry parts and reinstall diaphragm and adapter for the next use.

**SEE REVERSE FOR HANDS ON
RESCUE BREATHING & ANIMAL C.P.R. TECHNIQUE**

59