



## PRESS RELEASE

### HARRIS COUNTY TEXAS

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## Patient on Oxygen Burned While Smoking

A male patient sustained burn injuries from smoking a cigarette while using oxygen in his hospital room earlier this morning. The fire broke out at 9:30 a.m. in a private hospital room at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital, 23900 Katy Freeway.

“The nursing staff was alerted to a smoke smell coming from the room,” said a spokesperson with Memorial Hermann media relations. “But before our staff could reach the room, a small fire broke out and burned the male patient on his face, head and chest areas.”

The spokesperson confirmed the patient was being administered medical oxygen via a tube. “Luckily, our staff responded quickly. Two nurses extinguished the fire with cups of water and a fire extinguisher and then treated the patient for his injuries,” she said.

Smoke set off the fire alarm and firefighters from the West I-10 Fire Department responded. “Fire crews evacuated smoke from the building using fans,” said Lieutenant Todd Pfenninger with the Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office. “The room sustained smoke damage only and there were no other injuries,” added Pfenninger.

The man was later transported to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

“This unfortunate incident illustrates the extreme danger of smoking with the use of oxygen,” said Fire Marshal Mike Montgomery.

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