

An Open Letter by John B. Meyer, CFE, Director of Convention Center Operations and Special Projects, American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas

A TRUE STORY

In July 2008, a healthy colleague passed away in the office next to mine. What I now sense is that his death may have been premature and preventable had we had the right emergency equipment at the Center to sustain him until EMS arrived. Yes, we had a defibrillator unit, but he didn't need it since he had a pulse. His breathing was labored, but CPR was not called for in this instance since he was breathing, though with difficulty. We called 911, and it took EMS some time to reach the emergency scene. At about 6 minutes into the episode, he stopped breathing, and there was no pulse. It took 3 minutes of emergency-response activity to revive him. EMS took him to the hospital to run tests, which all revealed nothing. He was released by the hospital at his insistence that evening to his wife. At home, he developed the same critical symptoms, and he passed away in the car, heading back to the hospital. Who knows the real reason for his premature death? One only has to know that after three minutes of oxygen deprivation, organs start to die.

ENTER OXYSURE

I attended an industry trade show in Anaheim later that month, and a company was selling an inexpensive emergency oxygen unit to attendees. This is an innovative product---new to the market. It won last year's Technology of the Year product award. The unit is called OxySure[®]. It is an inexpensive, non-volatile emergency device in which 100% medically pure oxygen is created at a flow rate of 6 liters per minutes (FDA minimum approved) for 15 minutes. This is not an oxygen cylinder, which has the potential to explode and which requires training to use. This is a totally safe, compact unit, which can be used by anyone---no training is required. Oxygen is instantly created by a catalytic reaction with the turn of a dial. In the reaction, two inert powders instantly mix, producing the oxygen. It is a life saver, and it has done so since coming on the market. The OxySure unit is a good companion product, right next to a defibrillator unit, and I believe it should be the **first** device you reach for in any medical emergency. I believe emergency oxygen can be used in cardiac emergencies, of course, but it is a life saver for those with chronic breathing problems, COPD, allergy-related pulmonary crises, and so forth.

My passion for this product and its need comes from personal experience. Those precious minutes waiting for EMS to arrive were the longest minutes of my life. I wish I had OxySure available then – part of me feels strongly I might have been able to make a difference in the outcome for my colleague, and possibly even saved his life.

Sincerely,

John B. Meyer, CFE