

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTIFICATION

December 16, 2002

SUBJECT: Ohio Medical's Medical Gas Pressure Alarm Monitor between 1970 and 1985

To: All Facility Risk Managers or Facility Administrator

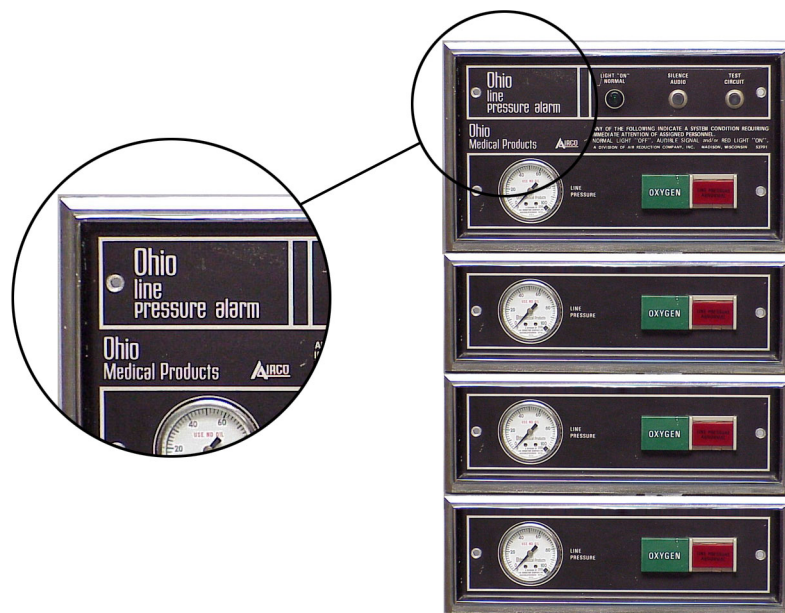
We have received reports of three printed circuit board failures from two institutions related to the Multi Module (Gas) Line Pressure Alarm Monitor manufactured and sold by **Ohio Medical**. The printed circuit boards located inside of the monitors have the potential to over-heat, which could result in smoke and flame.

Ohio Medical manufactured and sold this product between 1970 and 1985. Its successor, Ohmeda, sold the division that was responsible for the Medical Gas Pressure Alarm Monitor to Medaes in 1994. Hill-Rom purchased Medaes in 1998. Hill-Rom did not design, manufacture or sell the product; however, we want to notify our customers and others of the potential risk.

Because we do not know who purchased the Multi Module (Gas) Line Pressure Alarm Monitor, we are distributing this notification broadly to approximately 40,000 hospitals and healthcare facilities. We believe that raising awareness is the appropriate thing to do because of the potential hazard. These monitors range from 17 to 32 years in age.

The Multi Module (Gas) Line Pressure Alarm Monitors are easily identified from the wall mounted front panel of the product. The front panel clearly bears the identification of the "Ohio Medical" brand. Please reference the enclosed photograph to assist you in identifying the suspected monitors (see figure 1 on page 1).

Figure 1. Alarm Identification



Although Hill-Rom has provided minimal service on this product incidental to service contracts for medical gas systems in the past, parts are no longer available for repairs. In addition inspecting or servicing the unit may result in potential damage to components. If you have any Ohio Medical Multi Module (Gas) Line Pressure Alarms Monitors, we recommend that the facility plan to upgrade or replace this product.

We strongly recommend that your facility determine whether it has any of these Ohio Medical systems. If you do, contact Hill-Rom, or any other source of gas pressure alarm monitors in order to purchase suitable replacements.

If we can be of assistance to you, please contact Hill-Rom Technical Support:

U.S. customers:	(800) 445-3720
International customers (other than Canada):	(812) 934-1796 (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST) or gary.lakes@hill-rom.com
Canadian customers:	(800) 267-2337 (8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST) or jeff.moorehead@hill-rom.com

Please note that our Technical Support Group is primarily English speaking at this time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Regards,

Hill-Rom Technical Support