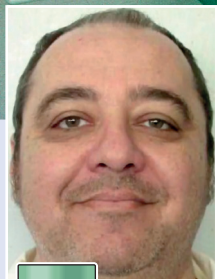


First U.S. nitrogen-gas execution

The U.S. state of Alabama is poised to use gas in a planned execution, the first state to attempt nitrogen hypoxia amid a shortage of barbiturates used in lethal injection executions



■ **Jan 25, 2024: Kenneth Eugene Smith**, convicted for murder-for-hire in 1988, is scheduled to be executed by gas

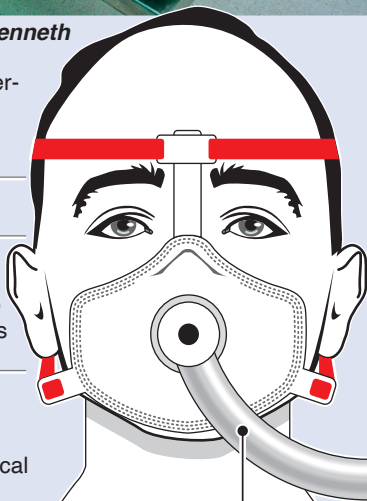


■ **2012:** EU imposes ban on "execution drug" exports

■ **2014:** States stop use of *midazolam* following executions in Oklahoma, Ohio and Arizona in which prisoners appear to suffer

■ **Execution:** Inmate placed on gurney. **Pulse oximeter**

measures oxygen levels in blood, **electrocardiograph** (ECG) records electrical signal from heart



■ **Mask:** Strapped to inmate's face

■ **Gas:** Nitrogen is administered into mask for either 15 minutes or five minutes following flatline indication on ECG, whichever is longer

■ **Risks:** Seal on mask might break allowing in oxygen. Scenario could induce stroke or leave inmate in permanent vegetative state

