

Hot Topic: A Team Approach to Fire Safety Education

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HOT TOPIC: A Team Approach to Fire Safety Education

Perioperative Services

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Problem Statement:

Fire Safety for the surgical patient has long been a part of the Perioperative educational model. Knowing one fire in the Operating or Procedural Room is too many; we sought to improve our Fire Safety education.



Goals/Purpose:

Nursing and Anesthesia educators at an Academic, Community, Magnet designated, Level-One Trauma Center collaborated to design an inter-professional educational session for the introduction of a Fire Risk Assessment for all surgical and procedural patients. A team approach to the roll-out of education presented a consistent approach of safe patient care.

Methodology:

Evidenced based research was conducted to seek out best practice for the Fire Risk Assessment scoring. With permission from the author, we used the risk scoring table numbering from 1-3, based on the risk factors present prior to the induction of the patient. Following the assessment, a score of 3 initiated a high risk protocol with individual surgical team actions and responsibilities.

A one hour didactic session was planned to introduce the new process. Departments represented included, OR, Labor and Delivery, GI Lab, Electrophysiology Lab and Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

The county Fire Marshall demonstrated the similarities and differences in the fire extinguishers found in the acute healthcare setting.

Surgical Site Fire Risk Assessment Guide

Alcohol-based prep solution had sufficient time for fumes to dissipate.
 Yes No NA

(Circle appropriate option)	Y	N
*Surgical Site or incision above the xiphoid (Surgical site < 12 inches from Oxygen source)	1	0
*Open oxygen source (patient receiving supplemental oxygen via any variety of face mask or nasal cannula)	1	0
*Available ignition source (i.e. electrosurgery unit, laser fiberoptic light source)	1	0
Total Score		

Scoring:
3 = High risk
2 = Low risk w/potential to convert to high risk
1 = Low risk

High Risk Fire Protocol Initiated
High Risk Fire Protocol N/A

Signature/title _____ Date _____ Time _____

Note: This is a section of a form entitled Identification of Patient and Surgical Site/Sites, and Fire Risk Assessment. Source: Christiana Care, Newark, DE



An online learning module including a video depicting the Fire Risk Assessment, Time-Out, and necessary evacuation was created to help illustrate the appropriate actions to prevent or react to a fire.

Mock Fire Drills with simulated patient evacuation were held on each unit to practice the new skills learned.

A debrief session follows to discuss the learnings of the simulation.



Evaluation/Results:

A positive response from evaluations of the didactic session shows an increased awareness of the potential for a fire in the OR. Audits are ongoing for compliance with the new Fire Risk Assessment for all patients.



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