

## ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

**Requestor:** [REDACTED]

**Requestor Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Requestor Email:**

**Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE):** 10 May 2018

**Response Date:** 18 May 2018; updated response 23 May 2018

**Type of TA Request:** Standard

### Request:

[REDACTED] requested technical assistance in searching for plans (e.g., COOP), tools (e.g., checklists and action item lists), templates, and any other resources that can help to develop a disaster/ emergency plan for sterile processing departments in hospitals.

### Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team conducted a literature review for resources related to hospital sterile processing departments. In addition, we reached out to ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members to gather examples of written materials or anecdotal information that they could share with the requestor.

Section I below includes feedback provided by an ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre member. Section II includes resources related to emergencies/ disasters and hospital sterile processing departments. Finally, Section III provides additional resources related to sterile processing departments that may be helpful.

## I. ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member Comments

Note: These are direct quotes or paraphrased from emails and other correspondence provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members in response to this specific request. They do not necessarily express the views of ASPR or ASPR TRACIE.

### SME Cadre Member 1:

- Planning options will depend on whether the facility is a stand-alone hospital or part of an integrated system. Based on previous experience our hospital had in supporting another hospital, factors to consider include:
  - Whether there is a partial or complete functional loss.
  - Whether to curtail or eliminate surgery/ procedures pending restoration.
  - Whether the facility will receive interim help from another facility or vendor. If that support is available, the following issues must be addressed: transportation, documentation and financial implications.
  - Addressing restoration plans.
- We have not had great luck identifying vendors with the capacity to meet our needs that are either in proximity to our hospital or can provide us with a mobile operation.

## II. Sterile Processing Department Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2017). [Healthcare Water System Repair and Recovery Following a Boil Water Alert or Disruption of Water Supply](#).

This webpage focuses on the infection control recommendation to be used during a boil water alert. There is also a section specific to sterile processing, which provides the requirements by the CDC and the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI).

Duro, M. (2015). [Internal/External Disasters in Sterile Processing: Are you Prepared?](#) Healthcare Purchasing News, Self-Study Series.

The author of this article discusses the importance of planning and preparing for disasters that may impact a sterile processing department. Examples of potential disasters and their adverse effects on the sterile processing department are provided.

MedStar Washington Hospital Center. (2018). Emergency Operations Plan: Central Sterilization System Outage. (See attached.)

This document provides a framework for the Central Sterilization staff and Hospital Incident Management Team to follow when the hospital's system becomes inoperable due to power failure, water outage or contamination, equipment failure, limited staffing, or if the system is expected to be out of service for longer than two hours.

Shelton, S., Hamm, J., Olatosi, B., and Ory Johnson, R. (2017). [Recovery of Surgical Equipment Sterile Processing During a Floodwater Boil Advisory](#). (Abstract only.) Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.

The authors of this article discuss the challenges faced in recovering their sterile processing for surgical equipment after floodwater contaminated their public water supply. They provide considerations for recovery plans, such as including a potable water source and a method to connect it to a required location.

## III. Other Related Resources

ECRI Institute. (2012). [Sterile Processing Department's Role in Patient Safety](#).

This report addresses the use of contaminated equipment in the operating room and the consequences it can have on the patients, staff, and the organization. Although not specific to disaster scenarios, it provides lessons learned and strategies to improve reprocessing practices in a sterile processing department.

Leach, R., Khan, N., Ange, G., et al. (2017). [The Impact of Operating a Central Sterile Processing Department From a Mobile Trailer at a Level 1 Trauma Hospital](#). (Abstract only.) American Journal of Infection Control. Volume 45, Issue 6, Supplement, Page S28.

The authors of this report conducted a study to observe implications to normal operating procedures while the sterile processing department of a Level 1 trauma hospital underwent renovations for an eight month period. Results indicated that there was no significant difference and there were minimal disruptions when compared to the prior six months.

NHS. (2011). [Effective Emergency Planning in the Hospital Sterilisation and Disinfection Unit \(HSDU\)](#).

This speaker in this brief (1 minute and 25 second) YouTube video addresses the impacts that St. Mary's Hospital facility (in the United Kingdom) faced when the new HSDU suffered plant failure and was completely shut down for four and a half days. He also discusses how the hospital activated the HSDU's contingency plan.

Ron Blank and Associates. (2008). [Principles & Design Considerations for Sterile Processes. An American Institute of Architects \(AIA\) Continuing Education Program](#).

Training participants can learn more about the importance of a sterile processing department and the concepts of decontamination and sterilization. They will also learn how to identify the type of equipment found in these departments and better understand the related nature of the workflow and design factors.

U.S. Department of Defense. (2017). [DOD Space Planning Criteria. Chapter 450: Sterile Processing](#).

This guidance document is intended to provide space planning criteria for sterile processing departments within the Military Health System facilities.