

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 27 April 2017

Response Date: 5 May 2017

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked if ASPR TRACIE had hazard assessment templates specific to surgical fires in the operating room.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team conducted a search online for relevant resources specific to hazard assessments for surgical fires in operating rooms. We also reached out to our Subject Matter Expert (SME) Cadre for input. Section I of this response includes the feedback received from our SME Cadre members, and Section II provides additional resources that may be helpful for this request.

Section I: SME Comments

There are many types of publically available “Fire Risk Assessment” forms. ASPR TRACIE received three versions from the following organizations: (1) Russell Phillips & Associates (RPA), (2) Children’s Hospital Boston, and (3) Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN). [Contact the ASPR TRACIE Assistance Center](#) to request any of these documents.

The four basic questions to ask of the entire surgical team at the time of the incident are:

- Is open delivery of oxygen being administered?
- Is a heat device being used (laser, bovie, etc.)?
- Is the location of the surgery above the xiphoid process?
- Is alcohol based prep solution being used?

Note: All surgical members MUST be in the room at the time of the questions.

The AORN tool is a great resource as it highlights risk reduction strategies for each question.

Section II: Additional Resources

American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Operating Room Fires. (2013). [Practice Advisory for the Prevention and Management of Operating Room Fires](#). *Anesthesiology*. Vol. 118, No.2.

This document is an updated report of the “Practice Advisory for Prevention and Management of Operating Room Fires: A Report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Operating Room Fires,” adopted by the American Society of Anesthesiologists in 2007 and published in 2008. It provides the key concepts related to operating room fire drills, fire prevention, and management of fires.

Christiana Care Health System. (n.d.). [Surgical Fire Risk Assessment](#). (Accessed 11/6/2018.)

This site provides free materials that can assist with fire safety and risk assessment planning. Sample materials include a fire assessment, fire risk presentation, and procedures and checklists. Christiana Care Health System has developed their own fire risk assessment score.

Mathias, J. (2006). [Scoring Fire Risk for Surgical Patients](#). *OR Manager*. 22(1): 1-3.

This article provides an overview of the key elements that may cause a surgical fire, and how to assess risk of fire in an operating room. It also includes a link to Christiana Care Health System’s sample risk assessment guide.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2017). [Preventing Surgical Fires](#).

This website provides an overview of the FDA’s “Preventing Surgical Fires” initiative. The goals of this initiative are to: increase awareness on the factors that contribute to surgical fires, distribute surgical fire prevention tools, and promote the adoption of risk reduction practices in the healthcare community.