Each perioperative area should have designated fire-responder teams with defined responsibilities to fulfill if a fire occurs in the perioperative area. A chain of command should be in place that includes the title of the person having the authority to manage the incident. The roles will vary depending on the size of the facility and the number of people in the area at the time of the event. Many of the tasks will need to occur simultaneously, and all team members should be aware of one another’s responsibilities to assist as able.

The following tables present four examples that can be used to determine perioperative team members’ duties in the event of a fire; these examples address the most common types of fires in the perioperative area. The user can place checkmarks on these tables to designate the roles as appropriate for his or her facility. The minimum number of team members present will likely be the surgeon, anesthesia professional, scrub person, and RN circulator.

Education promotes competency in management of a perioperative fire. All duties listed in the tables should be addressed and practiced with and without various team members present.

Following is a list of generic titles for the roles of the perioperative team members. These titles may be changed to be specific to the facility:

* + RN circulator
  + Scrub person
  + Anesthesia professional
  + Supervising anesthesia professional
  + Anesthesia assistant
  + First assistant (eg, RN first assistant, MD, resident, medical student, physician’s assistant, advance practice RN)
  + Charge RN
  + Support personnel (eg, environmental services, transporters, schedulers)
  + Administrative personnel (eg, manager, director, director of nursing, educator)
  + Surgeon (eg, physician performing the procedure)

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| **Table 1.**  **In the Event of a Small Fire on the Patient**  **Task** | **RN circulator** | **Scrub person** | **Anesthesia professional** | **Surgeon** | **Charge RN** | **Support personnel** | **First assistant** | **Supervising anesthesia professional** | **Anesthesia assistant** | **Administrative personnel** |
| * Stop the flow of gases to the patient and remove the burning materials. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Alert team members to the presence of the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Smother or extinguish the fire with water or normal saline. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Care for the patient. Assess the patient for injuries. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Push the sterile back table away from the sterile field. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assess the surgical field for secondary fire on the underlying drapes or towels. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Notify the next person in the facility chain of command. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assign a liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Delegate roles for non-direct caregivers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Compile a list of all people in the OR or procedure room to refer to in case of an evacuation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the room. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the area. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the disaster plan. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the traffic director. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Gather the involved materials and supplies. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Document the events according to the health care organization’s policy. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Table 2.**  **In the Event of a Large Fire on the Patient**  **Task** | **RN circulator** | **Scrub person** | **Anesthesia professional** | **Surgeon** | **Charge RN** | **Support personnel** | **First assistant** | **Supervising anesthesia personnel** | **Anesthesia assistant** | **Administrative personnel** |
| * Stop the flow of breathing gases to the patient. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Extinguish burning material by smothering it with water or normal saline, or with the appropriate fire extinguisher if necessary. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Remove burning material from the patient. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Alert team members to the presence of the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Have another team member extinguish the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Care for the patient. Assess the patient for injuries. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Push the sterile back table away from the sterile field. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Turn off the oxygen supply per facility procedure. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assess the surgical field for secondary fire on the underlying drapes or towels. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the facility alarm system. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Notify the next person in the facility chain of command. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Direct the fire response team or fire department personnel to the location of the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assist with the decision to evacuate. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Communicate the need to evacuate with personnel in surrounding areas. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assign a liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Delegate roles for non-direct caregivers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Compile a list of all people in the OR or procedure room to refer to in case of an evacuation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the room. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the area. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the disaster plan. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the traffic director. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Gather the involved materials and supplies. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Document the events according to the health care organization’s policy. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Table 3.**  **In the Event of an Airway or Endotracheal (ET) Tube Fire**  **Task** | **RN circulator** | **Scrub person** | **Anesthesia professional** | **Surgeon** | **Charge RN** | **Support personnel** | **First assistant** | **Supervising anesthesia professional** | **Anesthesia assistant** | **Administrative personnel** |
| * Simultaneously, remove the ET tube and any segments of the burned tube that remain in the airway, disconnect and remove the breathing circuit, and turn off the flow of breathing gases to the patient. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Pour normal saline into the airway as directed by the anesthesia professional. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Alert team members to the presence of the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Have another team member extinguish the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Care for the patient. Reestablish the airway, resume ventilating the patient using room air until you are certain nothing is burning in the airway, then switch to 100% oxygen. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Examine the airway. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assess the patient for injuries. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the facility alarm system. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assess the surgical field for secondary fire on the underlying drapes or towels. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Notify the next person in the facility chain of command. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assign a liaison to family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Delegate roles for non-direct caregivers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Compile a list of all people in the OR or procedure room to refer to in case of an evacuation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the room. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the area. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the disaster plan. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the traffic director. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Gather the involved materials and supplies. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Document the events according to the health care organization’s policy. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Table 4.**  **In the Event of a Fire on a Piece of Equipment**  **Task** | **RN circulator** | **Scrub person** | **Anesthesia professional** | **Surgeon** | **Charge RN** | **Support personnel** | **First assistant** | **Supervising anesthesia professional** | **Anesthesia assistant** | **Administrative personnel** |
| * Alert team members to the presence of the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Disconnect the equipment from the electrical source. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Remove the working end of the equipment from the sterile field. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Shut off electricity to the piece of equipment per facility policy if you are unable to remove the plug from the outlet. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Shut off gases to equipment per facility policy, if applicable. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assess the size of the fire and determine whether the equipment can be removed safely from the room or if the room should be evacuated. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Extinguish the fire using the applicable extinguisher, if necessary. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the facility alarm system. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Notify the next person in the facility chain of command. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Direct the fire response team or fire department personnel to the location of the fire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assist with the decision to evacuate. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Communicate the need to evacuate with personnel in surrounding areas. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Assign a liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the liaison to the family members. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Delegate roles for non-direct caregivers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Compile a list of all people in the OR or procedure room to refer to in case of an evacuation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the room. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Order the evacuation of the area. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Activate the facility disaster plan. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Act as the traffic director. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Gather the involved materials and supplies. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Document the events according to the health care organization’s policy. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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