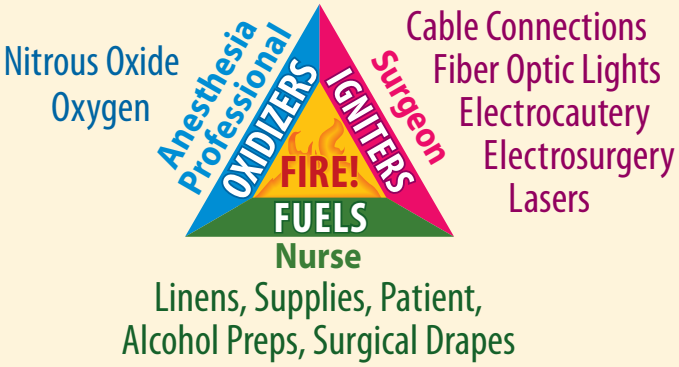
Don't Fuel the Fire

HUNDREDS OF FIRES occur in U.S. operating rooms each year, caused by activating ignition sources in alcohol vapor- or oxygen-enriched environments.

1. ***Ask*** **if flammable materials, oxidizers and potential fire ignition sources will be used for the procedure.**
2. ***Learn*** **how to safely use these items together.**
3. ***Know*** **what actions to take if a fire does occur.**

The 'fire triangle' shows the three elements needed to start a fire (oxygen + fuel + ignition source) and who is responsible for managing them.

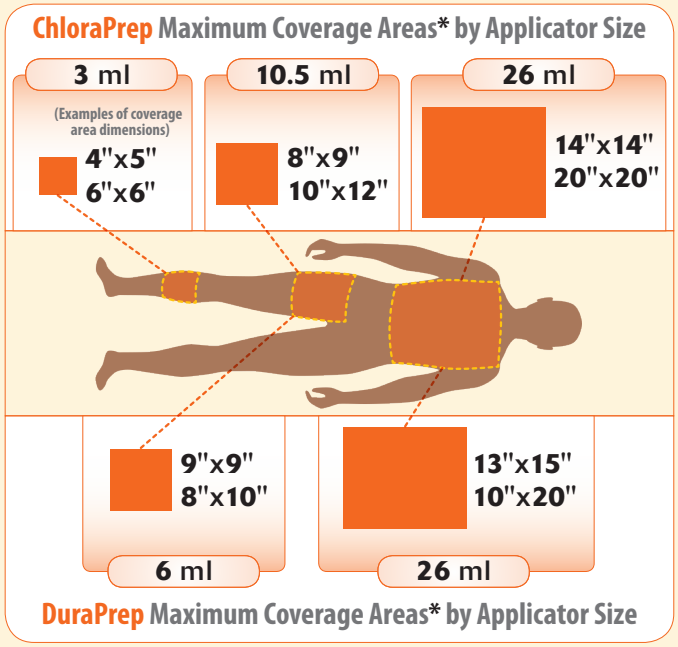
- **Learn to recognize early signs of fire.**
- **Have CO_2 fire extinguishers and saline or water solution available.**
- **Participate in OR team fire drills.**



Wait for Preps to Evaporate and O_2 to Dissipate

Properly apply alcohol-based prepping solutions and let them dry. ChloraPrep® and DuraPrep® are both nearly 75% isopropyl alcohol which is highly flammable. **Wait at least three minutes** for alcohol to ***evaporate*** from hairless skin and **up to one hour** from hair before using ignition devices. Apply drapes only after preps have ***dried.*** Don't use too big an applicator for too small an area *(see diagram)*. **Don't let alcohol pool** in skin creases. Remove alcohol-soaked materials.

Wait for oxygen to dissipate from under drapes, ***and flush*** with room air ***or scavenge*** away before using ignition devices. Use as **diluted** a concentration of oxygen as possible. Stop supplemental oxygen **at least one minute** before using igniton devices. Inform the surgeon before increasing oxygen concentration.



*** Coverage areas are approximate — *don't use too much.***

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