

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

EXTINGUISHING A SURGICAL FIRE

Fighting Fires ON the Surgical Patient

Review before every surgical procedure.

In the Event of Fire on the Patient:

1. Stop the flow of all airway gases to the patient.
2. Immediately remove the burning materials and have another team member extinguish them. If needed, use a CO₂ fire extinguisher to put out a fire on the patient.
3. Care for the patient:
 - Resume patient ventilation.
 - Control bleeding.
 - Evacuate the patient if the room is dangerous from smoke or fire.
 - Examine the patient for injuries and treat accordingly.
4. If the fire is not quickly controlled:
 - Notify other operating room staff and the fire department that a fire has occurred.
 - Isolate the room to contain smoke and fire.

Save involved materials and devices for later investigation.

Extinguishing Airway Fires

Review before every surgical intubation.

At the First Sign of an Airway or Breathing Circuit Fire, Immediately and Rapidly:

1. Remove the tracheal tube, and have another team member extinguish it. Remove cuff-protective devices and any segments of burned tube that may remain smoldering in the airway.
2. Stop the flow of all gases to the airway.
3. Pour saline or water into the airway.
4. Care for the patient:
 - Reestablish the airway, and resume ventilating with air until you are certain that nothing is left burning in the airway, then switch to 100% oxygen.
 - Examine the airway to determine the extent of damage, and treat the patient accordingly.

Save involved materials and devices for later investigation.