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 CO₂ fire extinguishers and saline or water solution available.
- Participate in OR team fire drills.

**Wait for Preps to Evaporate and O₂ 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 ignition devices. Inform the surgeon before increasing oxygen concentration.

**ChloraPrep Maximum Coverage Areas**

- 3 ml (4"x5"/6"x6")
- 10.5 ml (8"x9"/10"x12")
- 26 ml (14"x14"/20"x20")

**DuraPrep Maximum Coverage Areas**

- 6 ml (9"x9"/8"x10")
- 26 ml (13"x15"/10"x20")

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