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AORN Journal highlights the role nurses play in preventing surgical fires

The AORN Journal recently published an article — “Highlighting coordinated efforts to prevent surgical fires” — in which they emphasize perioperative nurses are crucial to the team approach to preventing surgical fire, responsible for preoperative risk assessments, and informing others of the risks or potential fire hazards associated with each procedure.

The article suggests:

- Updating preventive measures to account for the lessons learned from previous events
- Having perioperative nurses encourage a culture of safety by following proper reporting procedures for fires and near misses
- Making it the responsibility of the fire safety officer to disseminate these reports to the appropriate stakeholders, including those in leadership roles to facilitate root cause analysis and revisions to the fire safety plan

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses also released additional ways to improve fire safety, including four suggested steps:

- Establish team communication to assess fire risk for every patient
- Question if open oxygen is truly needed
- Educate every team member about surgical fire risk
- Know how to act if a fire occurs

For more information on preventing surgical fires, visit the Preventing Surgical Fires Initiative (PSFI) Webpage — a collaborative effort of The Joint Commission, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Council for Surgical & Perioperative Safety (CSPS) and dozens of other stakeholders. (Contact: Gerry Castro, gcastro@jointcommission.org)

John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award applications due Oct. 30

Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award, which recognizes major achievements for individuals and organizations in improving patient safety and health care quality.

The Eisenberg Awards were established in 2002 by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and The Joint Commission in memory of John M. Eisenberg, MD, director of the agency for healthcare research and quality. Eisenberg was a member of the founding board of directors of NQF and an impassioned advocate for health care quality improvement.

Applications are due to the NQF by Oct. 30. (Contact: Amy Shaw, EisenbergAwards@qualityforum.org)
Resources

Trending on jointcommission.org
- Leadership Blog — A Digital Decade: Used correctly, health information technology (IT) can increase patient safety and deliver relevant clinical information that improves patient care and shared decision making.

Upcoming event
- Environment of Care® Base Camp: Nov. 10-11, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Learn from Joint Commission engineers and surveyors who will guide attendees through case studies, updates to standards, and hot button EC issues. Register.

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