Scenario 1: Small Fire Controllable by Hand
Surgeon
- Tries to smother the fire with a wet towel or gloved hand.
Anesthesia provider
- Stops the flow of oxygen and converts to room air until the fire is under control.
Scrub tech
- Grabs a saline-water mix from the back table and pours it onto the fire.
- Smothers the fire with wet towels.
- Pushes the back table away from the sterile field.
Circulator
- Activates the fire alarm.
- Sends STAT page for help.
- Extinguishes burning materials.
OR supervisor
- Pulls the fire alarm if it hasn’t already sounded.
- Helps the anesthesia provider turn off the oxygen.
- Directs personnel to close all OR doors.
- Unplugs electrical devices.
- Grabs a saline-water mix from the back table and pours it onto the fire.
Clinical assistant
- If assigned to room, reports to circulator.
- If not assigned to room, begins clearing hallway to facilitate possible evacuation and remains available to assist in the evacuation efforts.

Scenario 2: Endotracheal TubeIgnites (Airway Fire)
Surgeon
- Immediately stops ignition source.
- Assesses patient injury.
- Prepares for emergency tracheotomy.
Anesthesia provider
- Stops flow of oxygen.
- Converts to room air until fire is under control.
- Removes endotracheal tube.
- Removes residual materials from airway.
- Checks airway to ensure flame is extinguished.
- Restores the patient’s breathing with room/medical air.
Anesthesia tech
- Obtains new endotracheal tube.
- Obtains emergency tracheotomy tray.
- Assists with airway management.
Scrub tech
- Pours saline-water mix onto fire or drops a wet towel on endotracheal tube.
- Pushes back table away from sterile field.
Circulator
- Activates the fire alarm.
- Sends STAT page for help.
- Extinguishes burning materials.
- Notifies OR supervisor.
- Files incident report.
OR supervisor
- Pulls fire alarm if not already done.
- Helps anesthesia turn off main oxygen valve outside of room.
- Directs personnel to close all doors, unplugs electrical devices and grabs fire extinguisher.
- Notifies circulator.
Clinical assistant
- If assigned to room, reports to circulator.
- If not assigned to room, begins clearing hallway to facilitate possible evacuation and remains available to assist in the evacuation efforts.

Scenario 3: Fire Spreads to the Drapes and Patient
Anesthesia provider
- Takes charge of team response effort.
- Stops flow of oxygen.
- Converts to room air until fire is controlled.
- Releases drapes from IV pole.
Anesthesia tech
- Assists anesthesia provider.
- Sends STAT page for help.
Scrub tech
- Pours saline-water mix onto discarded burning material on floor.
- Does not attempt to stamp out flames.
- Pushes mayo stand out of the way.
Circulator
- Immediately disconnects monitor cords from patient.
- Activates fire alarm.
- Sends STAT page for help.
- Extinguishes burning materials.
- Notifies OR supervisor.
- Files incident report.
OR supervisor
- Pulls alarm if not already done.
- Helps anesthesia turn off main oxygen valve outside of room.
- Directs personnel to close all doors, unplugs electrical devices, grabs fire extinguisher.
- Notifies anesthesia nurse and department director of the fire event.
Clinical assistant
- If assigned to room, reports to circulator.
- If not assigned to room, begins clearing hallway to facilitate possible evacuation and remains available to assist in the evacuation efforts.

Scenario 4: Large Fire, Evacuation Necessary
Anesthesia provider
- Covers open wound with a sterile barrier drape or sterile towels.
- Helps move the patient to a predetermined evacuation area.
- If OR table failure occurs, moves patient on procedure table lining to nearest stretcher or directly to designated evacuation area.
Anesthesia tech
- Sends STAT page for help.
- Activates the fire alarm.
- Disconnects the breathing circuit from the patient.
- Turns off the oxygen flow.
- Converts to room or medical air.
- Assists anesthesia provider with ventilating patient during evacuation.
Scrub tech
- Assists anesthesia provider with ventilating patient during evacuation.
- Provides additional equipment needed to support evacuated patient.
Circulator
- Helps surgeon cover the open wound.
- Assists staff with moving the patient.
Surgeon
- Prepares for emergency tracheotomy.
- Removes endotracheal tube.
- Turns off the oxygen flow.
- Disconnects the breathing circuit from the patient.
- Announces the need for evacuation.
- Calls for additional equipment.
- Preps the surgical drapes.
- Assists anesthesia provider with ventilating patient during evacuation.
- Provides additional equipment needed to support evacuated patient.

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERIES

ON THE WEB
Download a PDF version of this checklist at www.outpatientsurgery.net/forms

Carry Fire Response Reminders With You
Post this R-A-C-E-E guide in each OR and paste it on the back of each staff member’s ID badge.

Rescue those in immediate danger, including patients, visitors and staff.
Activate the fire alarm.
Know the locations of fire pull stations.
Call proper emergency number.
Close the doors to contain the fire.
Know where doors are fire doors.
Extinguish the fire, if it is safe to do so.
Know where oxygen shut-off valves are located.
Know where the fire extinguishers are located.
Activate fire extinguishers (Pull – Aim – Squeeze – Sweep).
Evacuate the area, if prudent.

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elements of the fire triangle converge. These checklists delegate responsibilities to each member of the surgical team during various fire response scenarios. Use them to run regular fire drills and follow them exactly to keep patients and staff safe if you’re ever faced with a surgical fire.