Hot Topic: A Team Approach to Fire Safety Education

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Problem Statement:
Fire Safety for the surgical patient has long been a part of the Perioperative educational model. Knowing one fire in the Operating or Procedural Room is too many; we sought to improve our Fire Safety education.

Goals/Purpose:
Nursing and Anesthesia educators at an Academic, Community, Magnet designated, Level-One Trauma Center collaborated to design an inter-professional educational session for the introduction of a Fire Risk Assessment for all surgical and procedural patients. A team approach to the roll-out of education presented a consistent approach of safe patient care.

Methodology:
Evidenced based research was conducted to seek out best practice for the Fire Risk Assessment scoring. With permission from the author, we used the risk scoring table numbering from 1-3, based on the risk factors present prior to the induction of the patient. Following the assessment, a score of 3 initiated a high risk protocol with individual surgical team actions and responsibilities.

A one hour didactic session was planned to introduce the new process. Departments represented included, OR, Labor and Delivery, GI Lab, Electrophysiology Lab and Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

The county Fire Marshall demonstrated the similarities and differences in the fire extinguishers found in the acute healthcare setting.

Evaluation/Results:
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Evaluation/Results:
A positive response from evaluations of the didactic session shows an increased awareness of the potential for a fire in the OR. Audits are ongoing for compliance with the new Fire Risk Assessment for all patients.

An online learning module including a video depicting the Fire Risk Assessment, Time-Out, and necessary evacuation was created to help illustrate the appropriate actions to prevent or react to a fire.

Mock Fire Drills with simulated patient evacuation were held on each unit to practice the new skills learned.

A debrief session follows to discuss the learnings of the simulation.