

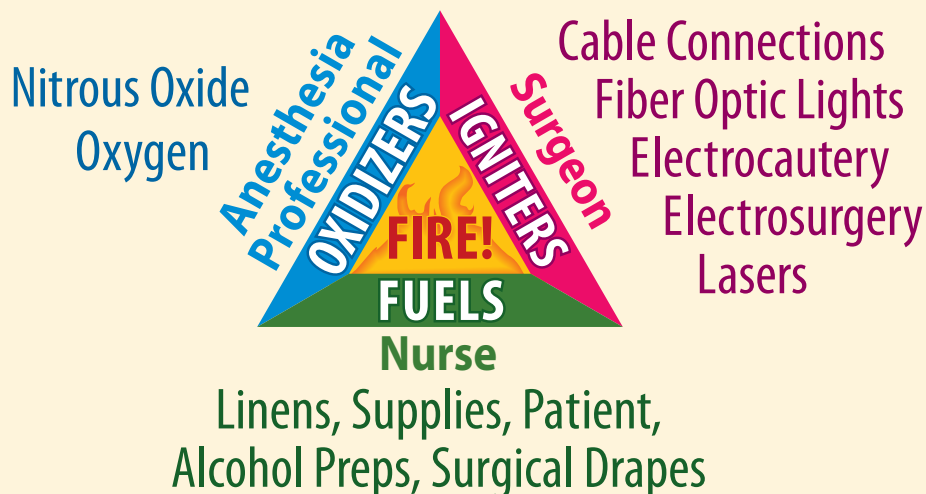
# Don't Fuel the Fire

**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 CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguishers and saline or water solution available.
- Participate in OR team fire drills.

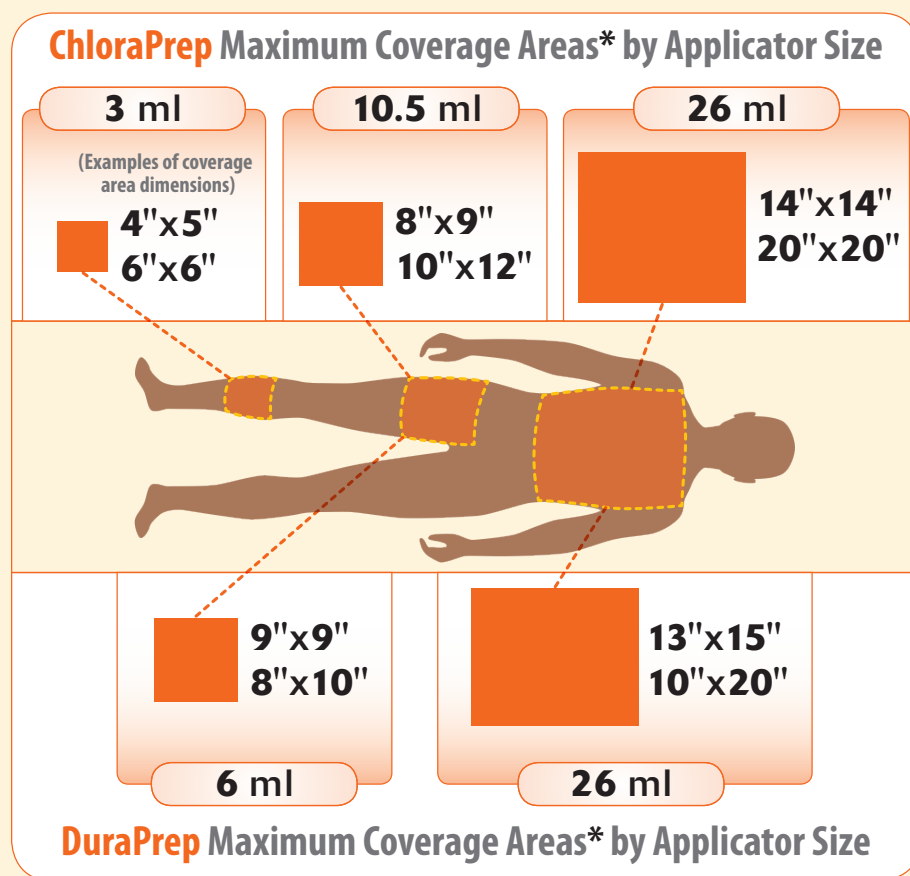


## Wait for Preps to *Evaporate* and O<sub>2</sub> to *Dissipate*

**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.



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