

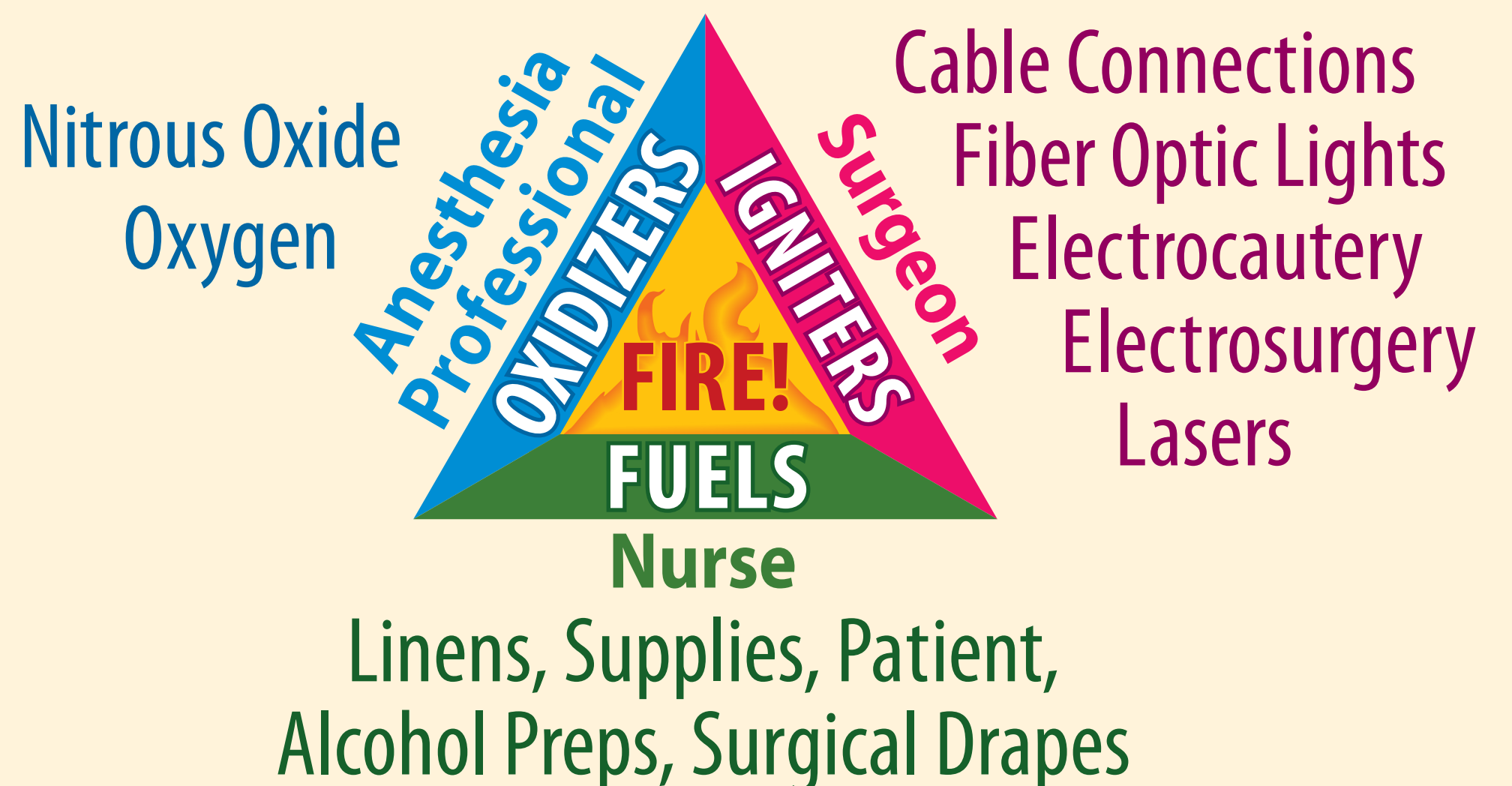
Don't Fuel the Fire

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.

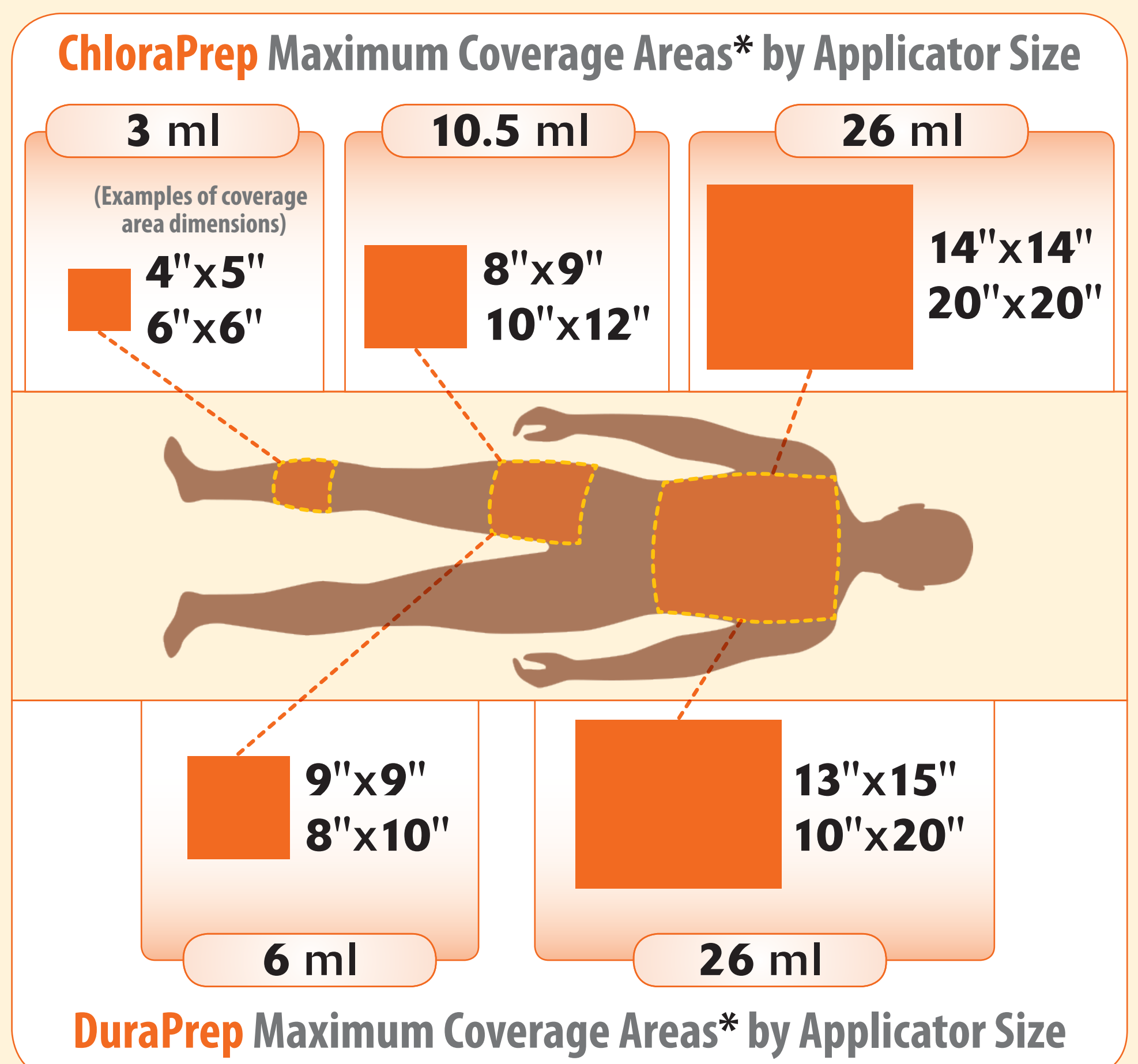
- Learn to recognize early signs of fire.
- Have CO₂ fire extinguishers and saline or water solution available.
- Participate in OR team fire drills.



Wait for Preps to *Evaporate* and O₂ to *Dissipate*

Properly apply alcohol-based prepping solutions and let them dry. ChloroPrep® 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.*