



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

CLINICAL

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PROCEDURE – EQUIPMENT
SYSTEMS FAILURE

Policy No.: OR030

Effective Date: 10/2018

Page: 1 of 2

Purpose of Procedure: To outline the procedure for Operating Room personnel to follow to provide safe patient care in event of equipment failure.

Policies:

1. After emergency measures have been taken, the Area Administrator, Clinical Director and Chairman, Department of Surgery or his designee will be notified.
2. Surgery for future patients will be initiated only with the approval of the Area Administrator and/or Chairman, Department of Surgery.

Procedural Steps:

- A. If the surgical vacuum system fails:
 1. Notify the following:
 - a. Control Desk
 - b. Central Service (number of additional portable suction units needed)
 - c. Circulating nurses
 - d. PACU nurses
 - e. Facilities Management (for repairs)
 2. Use portable suction.
- B. In the event of a long term problem affecting the sterilizers, processing of instruments will be affected. Arrangements will be made with Central Service to provide sterilization in another sterilizer in the facility or at another facility. Facilities Management will be notified immediately. Elective surgeries will be postponed until the sterilizers are functioning normally.
- C. In the event of an electrical system failure, the red outlets supplied by the emergency generator will be utilized. Should all electrical service be interrupted, the battery-powered lights will illuminate. Flashlights are available in emergency box for each OR. Emergency boxes are kept at the nurses station. Facilities Management will be notified immediately. Elective surgeries will be postponed until electricity is restored.
- D. Failure of the telephone system will necessitate using personnel as runners to notify the Telephone Operator of the problem. Staff will utilize hospital alternate means of communication eg. DHS supplied shortwave/2way radios, email for internal and external computer based communications. All communication with other areas of the hospital will be made with runners until the system is functional.
- E. Failure of the air conditioning system will be reported immediately to Facilities Management. The course of action, for each surgical procedure in progress will be the decision of the attending surgeon. Elective surgeries will be postponed until air conditioning system is functioning.

- F. Failure of the oxygen/nitrous oxide systems will require that auxiliary tanks be used during anesthesia. These tanks are on all anesthesia machines. Respiratory Therapy is responsible for supplying the gas cylinders.
- G. Elevator failure will not allow safe transportation of patients from one floor to another. If the problem is not long term, the patients will remain in the PACU until repairs are made. If elevator problem is long term, utilize elevators in the JPI building.
- H. Sterile bottled water will be used for surgical scrubs if the water supply is compromised.

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References:

AORN. (2020). Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. Denver, CO: AORN.
Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

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10/18 – Reviewed
07/21 - Reviewed