

professionals everywhere to recognize the implications of the flammability of surgical drapes and materials and, especially, the dramatically increased flammability in oxygen-enriched environments. Patient burns from surgical-site fires in superficial upper body surgeries conducted under MAC can be prevented right now. This will happen when new practice habits are formed, and inappropriate open-source supplemental oxygen under closed drapes is eliminated—due to the new version of ... “That’s what I was taught; it’s the way we always do it.”

**John H. Eichhorn, M.D.**, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Kentucky College of Medicine and Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky. jeichhorn@uky.edu

## References

1. Culp WC Jr, Kimbrough BA, Luna S: Flammability of surgical drapes and materials in varying concentrations of oxygen. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2013; 119:770–6
2. Mehta SP, Bhananker SM, Posner KL, Domino KB: Operating room fires: A closed claims analysis. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2013; 118:1133–9
3. Bhananker SM, Posner KL, Cheney FW, Caplan RA, Lee LA, Domino KB: Injury and liability associated with monitored anesthesia care: A closed claims analysis. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2006; 104:228–34
4. American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Operating Room Fires: Practice advisory for the prevention and management of operating room fires. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2008; 108:786–801
5. Barker SJ, Polson JS: Fire in the operating room: A case report and laboratory study. *Anesth Analg* 2001; 93:960–5

## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

### From Lynch to Knight to Wood: An Inscribed Esmarch Chloroform Kit



The famous German surgeon Johannes Friedrich August von Esmarch (1823–1908) described his namesake chloroform inhaler by 1877. The complete kit would eventually include a chloroform dropper bottle (center), the wireframe mask, gauze, minor tools, and a leather carrying case (left). This example has the flat hinged back of its case inscribed (right) with: “TO MY FRIEND / RALPH T. KNIGHT, M.D. / FROM / MATTHEW J. LYNCH, M.D. / MINNEAPOLIS / MINN.” Eight years after serving as the 1953 president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Dr. Knight received the ASA’s Distinguished Service Award. This Esmarch Chloroform Kit was passed from Dr. Lynch to Dr. Knight to the library-museum founded for the ASA by Dr. Paul Meyer Wood. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA’s Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.