HAZARD ALERT

Subject: Fire caused by improper equipment
Incident Date: August 8, 2017

Incident Description
A researcher was performing surgery on a small rodent when a cauterizer ignited a fire in proximity to the anesthesia hose containing supplied oxygen. The researcher quickly controlled the fire by first isolating the oxygen tank and then retrieving the nearest ABC fire extinguisher to extinguish the fire.

Injuries and Equipment Damage
The researcher was assessed by paramedics and deemed fit for work. The quick action of the researcher ensured minimal fire damage although extensive cleaning of the room was required due to the powdered extinguisher agent.

Immediate and root cause(s):
1. The rodent used for surgery was younger and smaller than usual.
2. There was a failure to identify the ignition hazard based on the size of rodent and appropriately-sized equipment (i.e. nose cone)
3. Failure to use the correctly-sized nose cone lead to ignition of the supplied oxygen.

Corrective Actions:
Surgeries with rodents are to use a properly fitted nose cone to eliminate the hazard of oxygen blow-by. There are two options when using nose cones:
1. Health Sciences Animal Resource Centre (HSARC) provides free, small connectors for mice.

Continuing Actions:
1. Institutional Animal User Training Program (IAUTP) training modules teach proper and safe anesthetic machine use and maintenance.