Managing Single Use / Reusable Medical Devices in Health Care Clinics after a Wildfire

Community-based Health Care Settings (CHCS) include, but are not limited to, clinics offering medical, dental, podiatry, acupuncture, and chiropractic services. When reopening a CHCS after a wildfire, take the following precautions in regards to the management of single-use and reusable medical devices:

1. All consumable products (single-use medical devices) found in the CHCS should be discarded.
2. Medical device reprocessing (MDR) areas should be re-commissioned. Thoroughly clean and disinfect MDR area and ensure table top sterilizers undergo operational requalification (see below).
3. Use new single-use medical devices until MDR area in the office has been re-commissioned.
4. Review practices for MDR in the office to ensure that all aspects can be completed as required before considering commencing reprocessing activities.
5. Reprocess (clean and sterilize) all packaged reusable instruments and instrument sets before use.

Operational Requalification:

- Operational requalification testing of both dynamic air removal and gravity sterilizers shall be conducted by running three consecutive cycles using biological indicator challenge tests.
- Dynamic air removal (vacuum) sterilizers shall additionally be tested with three consecutive air removal (Bowie-Dick) tests in an otherwise empty sterilizer.

Contact Alberta Health Services, Environmental Public Health, North Zone at 780-513-7517 prior to reopening to determine if your facility requires an inspection.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.