



ADVANTAGE
SUPPORT
SERVICES, INC.

EXECUTIVE
QUICK-REFERENCE
GUIDE

The Executive Guide to **EMERGENCY READINESS**

PROTECTING SURGICAL OPERATIONS DURING
WORKFORCE, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTION

IS YOUR OR PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED?



STERILE PROCESSING LEADERS



PERIOPERATIVE LEADERS



HOSPITAL EXECUTIVES

When Surgical Operations Are Disrupted, Every Hour Matters.



Most disruptions to surgical operations begin as manageable operational issues.

A staffing shortage creates a growing tray backlog. A survey finding exposes a competency gap. An environmental event places sterile inventory at risk.

The difference between a contained disruption and an operational shutdown often comes down to three factors:

- ✓ **How early the warning signs are recognized.**
- ✓ **How quickly leadership escalates the response.**
- ✓ **Whether experienced support is already prepared to mobilize.**

This guide outlines the three situations most likely to place sterile processing and perioperative operations under immediate pressure, along with the warning signs leaders should monitor before the OR schedule is affected.

3 Operational Threats

01 Workforce Continuity

Staffing shortages, volume surges, labor actions, and processing backlogs.

Operational consequence
Delayed case starts and cancellations.

02 Regulatory Recovery

Survey findings, corrective action requirements, competency gaps, and stalled standards implementation.

Operational consequence
Compliance exposure and reputational risk.

03 Environmental Recovery

HVAC failures, water events, storage excursions, and compromised sterile inventory.

Operational consequence
Loss of sterile inventory and OR disruption.

"The earliest warning signs of disruption usually appear before the first case is delayed."

Readiness Is Not Only an SPD Concern

A disruption in sterile processing can quickly affect:

- OR scheduling
- Patient access
- Staff fatigue
- Regulatory compliance
- Surgical revenue
- Executive decision-making

THE THREE OPERATIONAL THREATS

Nearly every disruption to perioperative operations can be traced back to one of three categories. Recognizing these early allows leaders to respond before operational issues begin affecting surgical schedules, compliance, or patient care.

01

WORKFORCE
CONTINUITY &
SPD OVERLOAD

Executive Summary

Staffing shortages, labor actions, unexpected case volume increases, or processing backlogs can quickly exceed your team's capacity and place surgical schedules at risk.

Warning Signs

- Trays are accumulating faster than your team can process them.
- Turnaround times are creeping beyond scheduled OR case start times.
- Mandatory overtime has become routine rather than the exception.
- Weekend backlog continues into Monday's surgical schedule.



FAST SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

Experienced Sterile Processing technicians, supervisors, and perioperative professionals deployed alongside your existing team to rapidly restore processing capacity and eliminate backlogs.

02

REGULATORY
SURVEY
RECOVERY

Executive Summary

Survey findings from CMS, The Joint Commission, DNV, OSHA, or internal quality reviews often require immediate operational stabilization and documented corrective action.

Warning Signs

- Corrective Action Plans (CAPAs) are due within aggressive timelines.
- Staff competency gaps were identified during the survey.
- Required standards implementation has stalled.
- Leadership requires interim expertise to restore compliance.



FAST SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

Experienced specialists who stabilize operations, assist with corrective action planning, validate competencies, and help organizations return to sustained compliance.

03

ENVIRONMENTAL
EVENT
RECOVERY

Executive Summary

HVAC failures, humidity or temperature excursions, water events, or compromised sterile storage conditions can rapidly threaten inventory availability and surgical continuity.

Warning Signs

- Sterile storage conditions have moved outside acceptable ranges.
- Large volumes of inventory require reprocessing.
- OR schedules are at risk of delays or cancellations.
- Internal resources are insufficient to complete recovery within required timeframes.



FAST SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

A rapid-response recovery team that assesses affected inventory, manages reprocessing efforts, and restores sterile supply while helping maintain uninterrupted surgical operations.

FROM READINESS TO RESPONSE

How experienced support restores operational stability

What Rapid, Experienced Support Looks Like



REAL-WORLD IMPACT

5,000+

Sterile Trays Reprocessed

\$50.5M

Estimated Surgical Revenue Protected

During one emergency deployment, a **10-person ASSI team** reprocessed **more than 5,000 compromised sterile trays** over six days, helping keep operating rooms open and surgical schedules moving forward.

How to Prepare Before You Need It



Know Your Triggers

Identify the operational, staffing, regulatory, and environmental conditions most likely to disrupt surgical operations before they become emergencies.



Establish a Trusted Partner

Building a contingency relationship before an event occurs helps reduce credentialing delays and enables faster deployment when support is needed.



Activate With Confidence

When disruption occurs, experienced professionals who understand healthcare environments can integrate quickly with your team and help restore operational stability.

BE PREPARED BEFORE THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS

Organizations that establish contingency partnerships before disruption occurs are often able to respond faster, protect surgical schedules, and minimize operational impact.

Learn how ASSI helps healthcare organizations strengthen emergency readiness.