



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: *First Aid for Burns*



The thought of any type of injury is unpleasant, but being a burn or scald victim is scary and totally unnerving. In our agriculture, forestry and wildlife environments burns and/or scalds can happen before we realize it. Contact is made with flammable liquids and gases, gasoline motors, hot surfaces, torches, welding equipment, portable heaters, chemicals, electricity and the sun and wind.

All of these can cause burns and scalds. All burns are painful, and the threat of an infection is always a possibility. Most burns require some degree of medical attention.

First Degree Burns-

These affect the outer layer of skin such as a sunburn or coming in contact with a hot surface. The skin becomes red and sore.

First Aid Treatment: Apply cold water to the burned area or submerge the area in cold water. Apply a sterile bandage.

Second Degrees Burns-

These affect the entire outer layer of skin and sometimes penetrate even deeper. The skin usually blisters. These burns are caused by bad sunburn, contact with hot liquids or maybe burns from gasoline.

First Aid Treatment: Apply cold water as you would for a first degree burn - or use a cold pack - or cover the burn with a cold, wet dressing. Don't burst or break the blisters or use ointments, antiseptics, etc. Seek professional medical help.

Third Degree Burns-

These burns penetrate both layers of skin and are very serious. Contact with flames, burning clothing, and electricity can cause third degree burns.

First Aid Treatment: If clothing is on fire, drop and roll the victim to extinguish the flames. Cover the burn area with sterile dressing never use cold water, ointments, antiseptics, etc. Get medical help at once.

Assessing the size of a burn-

When assessing the size - the burn + 1% is equal to the size of the victim's hand.

First Degree – 9% or less – Referral – See your own doctor.

Second Degree – 1-8%, 9% or more – Referral – see your own doctor (emergency services).

Third Degree – Any Extent – emergency services.

Expectations of the mouth/throat from burns/scalds-

- Facial burns/scalds are present.
- Soot around the nose or mouth.
- History of the incident suggests that the casualty inhaled hot fumes or smoke.
- The casualty's voice becomes hoarse.

Burns to the mouth and throat will swell very fast, so it is imperative that you treat them as an emergency. Swelling could restrict breathing. Loosen any tight clothing and call emergency service for help.

Serious Burns and Scalds-

- Dial emergency services immediately.
- Gently flood the affected area with cold water (or any other non-flammable liquid like milk, beer, etc.).
- Remove any clothing not sticking to the wound.
- Cover the wound with non-fluffy material like a pillowcase.
- Wrap the area in cling wrap (discard the first two turns on the roll).
- Do not waste time to secure the ends of coverings in place.
- Wrap the casualty in a blanket, taking care to not allow them to cool down too quickly.
- Treat the casualty for shock.
- Do not put the casualty in a bath filled with cold water; this could cause them to cool down too fast and hypothermia could set in.
- Do not apply lotions or butter to the wound. This doesn't cool the wound down and could result in infection.
- Do not fully completely enclose limbs in cling wrap, because as swelling starts, it could restrict the blood flow.
- Do not use adhesive tape to keep bandages in place.
- Hands and feet could be put into plastic bags instead of cling wrap.

Minor Burns –

- Hold the affected area under cool running water for 15 minutes. Do not use ice.
- Remove any jewelry from the affected area before swelling starts.
- Do not put lotions or butter on the affected area. This doesn't cool it down and could cause infection.
- Do not burst the blisters; cover them with a sterile dressing or a plaster.
- If the area becomes infected, seek medical advice.
- Do not use adhesive tape to hold dressings in place.

Electrocution-

- ✓ Do not move a victim, if appears to endanger you.
- ✓ Be sure the current is off before touching the victim.
- ✓ Use a non-conductive object like a broom to cut the current off. Remember water conducts electricity.

Treatment-

- Check to see that the airway is open and the victim is breathing. Act accordingly (CPR, if necessary).
- Treat burns as described above and call emergency services when in doubt.

**YOU LIGHT 'EM, WE FIGHT 'EM;
YOU CRASH, WE DASH!
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SAFETY IS YOU—DON'T GET BURNED!