MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Emergency Care for Burns

According to statistics, each year in the USA more than 2 million people are injured and about 12,000 people die as a result of burns.

The largest percentage of burns to adults occur in the workplace, resulting from:

- Contact with flames or hot pipes such as machinery or pipes.
- Contact with hot liquids or steam.
- Splashes from chemicals to the eyes or skin.
- Electricity

You can protect yourself from burns by being careful, and by wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

Not all Burns look the same-

- ✓ Some burns, called **first-degree burns**, are less serious than others. They usually result in red, dry, skin and mild swelling.
- ✓ **Second degree burns** do more damage to the skin-usually are more painful and result in blisters and swelling.
- ✓ **Third degree burns** are even more serious-often resulting in white or charred skin. The burned skin may be hard and dry. Third degree burns of any size are extremely serious and require medical attention. These type of burns destroy nerve endings, so they don't feel so painful.

If you or a co-worker is burned at work-don't hesitate – notify your supervisor and get immediate medical help.

*****Immediately call the emergency medical services for chemical burns, electrical burns, or burns to the head, neck, genitals, hands or feet. Also get immediate medical help for large burns, burns to more than one part of the body, or burns that result in trouble breathing.***

What to do for Burns-

- Call for emergency help as soon as possible. Report minor burns to the management.
- Use large amounts of cool water to cool the burn, unless it is an electrical burn or a burn due to the freezing of anhydrous ammonia. Don't use ice or ice water to cool a burn.
- Apply a soaked towel, sheet or wet cloth to burned areas that can't be immersed in water
- Cover the burn with a loose bandage or clean, dry cloth.

Electrical Burns or Chemical Burns-

- Both of these types of burns are very serious. Immediately call for emergency medical help.
- Don't touch a person shocked by electricity until you know that the power has been cut off. Only Turn the power off yourself if you can do it safely. If the victim isn't breathing and you are trained in CPR, begin the CPR until professional help arrives. Then cover the electrical burn with a dry bandage.
- For a chemical splash to the eye, follow these steps:

~Immediately flush the eye with eye wash solution or a gentle stream of cool, running water. Continue this for 15 minutes.

~Check the chemical label and material safety data sheet (MSDS) for specification instructions.

~Don't touch the area exposed to the chemical without wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

- Remove any excess powder or dry chemicals from the victim's skin. Also remove any contaminated clothing, if possible.
- Flush the burned area with a gentle stream of cool water at least 15 minutes.

EMERGENCY BURN CARE-DO'S & DON'TS

DO:

- **Act quickly when a worker is burned.**
- **Call for emergency medical help as soon as possible.**
- **Remove the victim from the heat or other source of the burn.**
- **Use cool - not ice cold water to cool the burn.**
- **Know the location of emergency showers and eyewash solutions.**

DON'T:

- **Break blisters that result from a burn.**
- **Apply antiseptic spray, ointments, grease, or butter to a burn; get professional advice.**
- **Try to remove clothing that is stuck to burned skin.**
- **Don't touch a person with an electrical shock until you know that the power has been turned off.**

A BURN NEGLECTED MAY BE A BURN INFECTED!

ALERT TODAY ◇ NO INJURY TOMORROW

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