

Burns, Smoke, Heat and Cold

Burns

Burns are classified by the agent causing the burn, or the source of the burn.

Including;

- Heat (thermal) - fire, heat, steam, hot objects
- Chemicals - acids and various causes
- Electricity (including lightning)
- Light - includes burns to the eyes and burns to the skin or eyes by ultraviolet light (including sunlight)
- Radiation - usually from nuclear sources

Burns

Burns are classified as the their severity as well as source.

First Degree burn;

- Only the outer layer of skin is burned
- Redding of the skin and perhaps some swelling (sunburn)

Burns

Second Degree Burn;

- The first layer of skin is burned through and the second layer is damaged.
- You will see intense reddening, blisters, and spotted appearance to the skin
- Cause considerable swelling within 48 hours
- First degree burns often surround second degree burns

Burns

Third Degree Burn;

- All layers of the skin are damaged (Fat, muscles, nerves and even bones may be involved.
- At times difficult to distinguish from second degree burns; third degree burns usually have areas charred black or that appear dry white.
- May complain of pain, may not because of nerve damage
- First and Second degree burns found as well

Burns

The Rule of Nines;

- A system for estimating the amount of skin surface burned.
- Adults and Childs are calculated different

Burns

Rules for First Responders;

Rule 1; primary and secondary surveys; provide basic life support

-Rule 2: monitor vitals

-Heat or smoke may have effected the lungs

-Thermal, electrical, and chemical burns can cause life-threatening injuries to the airway and lungs

Burns

Rules for First Responders;

Rule 3; Provide care for all burns

-Rule 4; Alert dispatcher for any chemical, radiation, or electrical burns, all third degree burns or any serious second degree burn.

Burns

Rules for First Responders;

Rule 5; All burns involving the hands, feet, face, groin, buttocks, medial thighs, or major joint should be seen by EMS personnel

-Rule 6: Any burn involving a WHOLE area of the body should be seen by EMS personnel (an arm, leg, chest or back)

Burns

Rules for First Responders;

Rule 7; When in doubt consider 1st to be 2nd and 2nd to be 3rd

-Rule 8: Always consider the effects of a burn to be more serious if the patient is a child, elderly, the victim of other injuries, or someone with a respiratory disease.

Burns

Care for Chemical Burns

- Washing away the chemical with water, flood the area
- Apply a sterile or clean dressing
- Provide care for shock
- Make sure EMS has been alerted
- If the patient complains of increased burning or irritation, rewash the burned areas with water for several minutes; avoid removing dressings once they are in place

Burns

Care for Chemical Burns

TO THE EYES

- Immediately flood with water
 - Acid burns - at least 5 min
 - Alkali burns - at least 10 min
 - Unknown - at least 15 min
- Cover eyes with moistened pads

Burns

Care for Electrical Burns

- Alert Dispatch
- Safe scene
- Check breathing and pulse
- Evaluate the burn (at least two burn sites)
- Apply sterile or clean dressings
- Provide care for shock
- Make sure dispatch has been alerted