

BURNS

Burns are classified two ways:

1. Sources – heat, chemical, electricity, and radiation burns.
2. Depth – superficial (first degree), partial thickness (second degree), or full thickness (third degree).

CRITICAL BURNS

Critical burns are potentially life threatening, disfiguring, and disabling.

Critical burns require immediate medical attention.

FIRST DEGREE BURNS

1. Involves only the top layer of skin.
2. Skin is red and dry, usually painful and the area may swell.
3. Usually heals within one week without permanent scarring.

SECOND DEGREE BURNS

1. Involves the top layers of skin.
2. Skin is red, usually painful; has blisters that may open and weep clear fluid, making the skin appear wet; often swells.
3. Usually heals within 3 to 4 weeks.

THIRD DEGREE BURNS

1. May destroy all layers of skin and some or all of the underlying structures – fat, muscles, bones, and nerves.
2. The skin may be brown or black (charred) with the underlying tissue sometimes appearing white.
3. May be painless if the burn destroys nerve endings.
4. Healing may require medical assistance. Scarring is likely.

CARING FOR BURNS

1. Check the scene for safety.
2. Stop the burning by removing the person from the source of the burn.
3. Check for life-threatening conditions.
4. Cool the burn with large amounts of cold running water.

CARING FOR BURNS

5. Cover the burn loosely with a sterile dressing.
6. Prevent infection.
7. Take steps to minimize shock. Keep the person from getting chilled or overheated.
8. Comfort and reassure the person.

DO NOT'S FOR BURN CARE

1. Apply ice or ice water except on small superficial burns.
2. Touch burn with anything other than a clean covering.
3. Remove pieces of clothing that stick to the burn.

DO NOT'S FOR BURN CARE

4. Try to clean a burn.
5. Break blisters.
6. Apply any kind of ointment on a severe burn.

CHEMICAL BURNS

It is critical to realize that when treating a chemical burn, the chemical will continue to burn as long as it is on the skin.

You must remove the chemical from the skin as quickly as possible by brushing with gloved hands and flushing with water.

ELECTRICAL BURNS

If you encounter an electrical burn, you should:

1. Never go near the person until you are sure he or she is not still in contact with the power source.
2. Call 9-1-1 in case of high-voltage electrocution, such as downed power lines.

ELECTRICAL BURNS

If you encounter an electrical burn, you should:

3. Turn off the power at it's source.
4. Prepare to administer CPR since electrocution can cause cardiac or respiratory emergencies.

RADIATION (SUN) BURNS

Care for sunburn as you would any other burn.

Always cool the burn and protect the area from further damage by keeping it out of the sun.