

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Vol 28 - No 20 BURNS

Burns are injuries resulting from exposure to heat, chemicals, electricity or radiation. The severity of a burn depends on the temperature of the object, liquid or gas causing the burn; how long the skin was exposed to the source, the location and extent of the burn, and the victims age and medical condition. Burns have many causes, but usually includes carelessness and or unsafe work practices.

Burns are classified according to their source, such as heat or chemicals, and their depth.

First-degree burns involve only the top layer of skin. The skin will look red and dry and will be painful. Second-degree burns will cause skin to look red and have blisters. The burned area will often swell. Third-degree burns extend through the skin and into the tissues below the skin. This type of burn can be very painful or may be painless if the burn destroyed the nerve endings in the skin. Third degree burns are life threatening.

Some of the basic care steps to remember while giving First Aid to a burn victim are as follows:

1. Treat burns with the gentle application of cold water (not ice) or towels soaked in cold water. Once cooled, cover the burned area with a sterile dressing. Gauze or cotton will stick to open wounds and should not be used.
2. Call immediately for emergency services for serious burns.
3. Do not put ointment or salve on second or third degree burns.
4. Never pull charred clothing from burns.
5. Keep burned arms and legs elevated higher than the heart.
6. Make sure the victim's airway remains open.
7. Watch for shock symptoms. Provide comfort and aid, and reassure the victim that help is on the way.



#### TREATMENT FOR ASPHALT & MODIFIED BITUMEN BURNS

1. Call immediately for emergency services.
2. Make sure that you have an adequate supply of water on the job. Cool the burned area with water.
3. Cooling should be carried out only until the bitumen has hardened.

Remember that OSHA requires that at least one member of your crew be a First Aid Provider who has been properly trained by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or an equivalent organization.

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