

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C017: First Aid for Burns (Fire, Electricity, Chemicals)

Introduction: Burns are common injuries that occur at the workplace daily. Burns can be caused by several different means and may cause a varying degree of tissue damage. Identifying the type and severity of the burn is the first step to administering first aid.

Assess the Situation:

Determine the cause of the injury and eliminate any hazards that may affect you or the victim. *Put on any* personal protective equipment which may be necessary for the situation, such as latex gloves for protection from blood borne pathogens. *If the victim* is not in any danger, do not move them. *Treat life threatening situations first:* severe bleeding, cardiac arrest, or if the victim has stopped breathing. *Do not become a victim* yourself; leave rescue to trained personnel.

Call for Help:

If you are alone, treat any life threatening injuries first, then go for help. *If you are not alone*, send someone for help immediately.

Following is a brief explanation of the severity and classification of burns:

1st Degree: 1st Degree burns are identified by redness of skin and are generally considered to be uncomfortable. 1st Degree burns are generally caused by overexposure to the sun, scalding by moderately hot water, or touching hot material.

2nd Degree: 2nd Degree burns are very painful. The burns are generally identified by blistering and extreme redness of skin.

3rd Degree: 3rd Degree burns may cause charring, whiteness, and permanent discoloration of skin. 3rd Degree burns can be considered life threatening.

Fire generally causes second- and third-degree burns. Second-degree burns show redness, swelling and blistering. Third-degree burns have a white or charred appearance.

Burns due to Fire: Fire generally causes second and third degree burns. Second degree burns show redness, swelling, and blistering. Third degree burns have a white or charred appearance. Treat 2nd and 3rd degree burns caused by fire as follows:

Cover all burned skin with a dry, sterile dressing or cloth.

Elevate the burned arm or leg above the heart to reduce pain.

Do not attempt to remove any clothing or jewelry that may be melted to the skin.

Do not attempt to “pull apart” fingers that may be fused together.

Seek immediate Emergency Medical attention

Burns due to Electricity: Second and Third degree burns are common for victims of electrical shock. Treat burns as follows:

Ensure that all electrical current has been turned off.

Check for breathing and do CPR if necessary.

Cover all burned skin with a dry, sterile dressing or cloth.

Elevate the burned limb above the level of the heart to reduce pain and relieve shock.

Burns due to Chemicals: Chemical burns often cause damage long after the chemical has made initial contact with the skin.

If the victim's eyes have been splashed with a chemical, flush the eyes with water until medical personnel arrive.

Read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for proper first aid treatment, and when appropriate, rinse with water.

If appropriate, seek Emergency Medical attention (always take the Material Safety Data Sheet and chemical with you).

Conclusion: It is important to remember that serious burns of any type cause nerve damage that disables the healing process in the skin tissues. In addition, the body's immune system will not respond with the normal antibodies to fight off subsequent infections associated with burns. In order to help reduce future complications, extra care should be taken to avoid unnecessary contamination resulting in infection.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.