

# BURNS

## IN CASE OF FIRE

If on fire: Stop, drop, cover and roll. Smother flames with a blanket.  
Turn off power. Move to a safe area. Do not enter a burning or toxic atmosphere.  
Raise the alarm - Call for help.  
Do not fight a fire unless trained and safe to do so.

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

### Around the burnt area:

- Pain, blistering, red to black marks.

### Significant or severe burns are burns that are:

*Any of the following:*

- Deep in to the skin.
- Covering a large body area.
- On face, hands, feet, genitalia, joints.
- All the way around a limb or the chest.
- Inhalation - i.e. singed nasal hairs, and eyebrows, blackness around the nose and mouth, coughing, hoarse voice, breathing difficulty.
- Chemical and electrical.
- In the very young or very old, or those with existing medical disorders.

### Other injuries:

- Look for other injuries e.g. fractures, bleeding.
- Swelling of airways.
- Breathing difficulties.
- Reduced responsiveness, reduced circulation, shock and poor vital signs.
- Watch for cardiac arrest.

**ASSESS AIRWAYS,  
SEVERITY,  
OTHER INJURIES**

**SEVERE BURNS - CALL 000**

Monitor - Be prepared for CPR  
Move to water supply  
Put on gloves

**COOL TAP WATER**

Lots of it, for at least 20 minutes\*

**ELEVATE THE AREA**

Remove rings and tight clothing  
before swelling occurs.

**COVER THE BURN**

Loose, light non-stick dressing

**TREAT OTHER INJURIES**

Keep the casualty warm and at rest

**Ensure Safety  
for Self and Others**

**Dial Triple Zero (000)  
for an Ambulance**

\* Hydrogel may be used if water is not available.  
Water and hydrogel stop the burning process.

DO NOT peel off stuck clothing.

DO NOT break blisters, apply lotions, ointments, creams or powders.

Use clean, dry, lint-free materials, i.e. plastic wrap, handkerchief, sheet or pillowcase.

**A trained person should provide oxygen for smoke inhalation and face burns.**

Cool bitumen burns with water for 30 minutes.

**For chemical burns,  
consult the substance  
container and the SDS and  
call 000 and the Poisons  
Information Centre 131126**