

Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

Burn first aid

Date: _____

Keep in mind that should a coworker suffer a burn injury caused by heat, electricity, or chemicals, proper treatment of the affected area will play a big role in reducing the severity of the damage.

What to focus on

Here are three things to keep in mind in order to effectively treat a burn injury.

1. For heat or thermal burns, apply cool water to the affected area. Rinse the burned area in water without scrubbing, or immerse the burn in water, until the pain is gone. Then use a sterile cloth to pat the area and cover it. Important: Never peel stuck clothing from a thermal burn.

2. For electrical burns, don't touch the victim. Shut off the electricity, but don't make contact with the victim until all the wires have been removed. Treat the person for shock and seek medical attention. Check the area where electricity entered and exited the body. Treat minor burns with cool water.

3. For chemical burns, locate the container. You can find treatment instructions on the chemical's container. Remove contaminated clothing and rinse the eyes if they've been affected. For dry chemicals, brush the substance off the skin and flush the area for 15 to 20 minutes.