

# First Aid for Burns



# TREAT BURNS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS

## THIRD-DEGREE BURNS ARE EXTREMELY SERIOUS

If skin is white or charred and burned through:

- Don't try to treat or cool the burn or remove clothing that's stuck to it.
- Cover with clean cloth.
- Elevate burned limbs.
- Get immediate medical attention.

## SECOND-DEGREE BURNS NEED CAREFUL ATTENTION

If skin is red and blistered:

- Remove clothing unless it's stuck to the burn.
- Apply cool water or wrapped ice packs.
- Don't break blisters.
- Get quick medical attention if the burn is large or on the face, hands, or genitals.

### FIRST-DEGREE BURNS NEED PROPER FIRST AID

If skin is red:

- Apply cool water or wrapped ice.
- Cover with clean cloth or dressing.
- Take aspirin or ibuprofen to relieve pain.

### CHEMICAL BURNS NEED FLUSHING

If the MSDS says a chemical can burn:

- Check MSDS first aid instructions.
- Remove contaminated clothing.
- Flush burned skin or eye with water for 15 minutes.
- Cover burn with clean cloth and get medical attention.

### **AVOID MAKING A BURN WORSE**

#### DON'T:

- Apply unwrapped ice, butter, petroleum jelly or ointment.
- Cut away clothing that's stuck to a burn.
- Rub the body.

### DO:

- Check for shock and breathing problems and provide necessary first aid.
- Get medical attention if a burn isn't healing well or causes ongoing pain.