

ELECTRICAL BURNS

The information provided in this safety topic is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice or formal first aid training.

An electrical burn can occur as a result of an electrical shock, depending on factors like the type of current, how high the voltage is, how the current traveled through the body and the person's overall health.

- Any person who has been injured by contact with electricity should be evaluated by medical personnel.
- Minor electrical burns can be treated as you would other minor burns.

CAUTION:

- Don't touch the victim if they are still in contact with the electrical current.
- Don't get near any live wires until the power is turned off.
- Don't move a person with an electrical injury unless the person is in immediate danger.



Call 911 (or emergency services) immediately if the injured person has major burns or experiences any other symptoms, like difficulty breathing, confusion, seizures, or loss of consciousness.

While waiting for emergency medical services, these actions can help:

- Turn off the source of electricity if possible. If not, move the source away from both you and the injured person using a dry, nonconducting object made of cardboard, plastic or wood.
- Begin CPR if the person shows no signs of circulation, such as breathing, coughing, or movement.
- Try to prevent the injured person from becoming chilled.
- Apply a bandage. Cover any burned areas with a sterile gauze bandage, if available, or a clean cloth. Don't use a blanket or towel, because loose fibers can stick to the burns.

Discussion

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What job activities are at risk for electrical burns? Thinking about each specific risk, how can contact with the dangerous electrical hazard be prevented?