



Today's discussion is from the
First Aid / Health Category.

Burn Protocols

Burn injuries are often difficult to diagnose and may continue to worsen if they do not receive immediate, specialized treatment. The initial evaluation and treatment of these burns often happens in rural medical facilities with limited experience in burn injury care. In the past, this has resulted in evaluation and treatment that did not provide the best care to injured firefighters. Therefore, victims with either severe burns or burns that meet any of the below criteria should be immediately referred and transported to a regional burn center.

- Burn injury criteria identified by the American Burn Association as warranting immediate referral to an accredited burn center.
 - Partial thickness burns (second degree) involving greater than 5% Total Body Surface Area.
 - Burns involving the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints.
 - Third-degree burns of any size are present.
 - Electrical burns, including lightning injury are present.
 - Inhalation injury is suspected.
 - Burns are accompanied by traumatic injury (such as fractures).
 - Individuals are unable to immediately return to full duty.

- It is imperative that action is expeditious, as burn injuries are often difficult to evaluate and may take 72 hours to manifest themselves. When there is any doubt as to the severity of the injury, the required action is to immediately refer and transport the employee to a regional burn center.

- To ensure that Workers Compensation assistance is provided an agency administrator, or designee, for the incident needs to coordinate with the firefighter's home unit.

- Do you know the location of the closest regional burn center?
 - <http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/im.html>

References:

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#)

Burn center location <http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/im.html>

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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