



2005-17

**JACKSON BUREAU OF FIRE
SAFETY
FIRE DISTRICT No. 1 & 3
200 Kierych Memorial Drive**



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BURN EMERGENCIES

A burn is damage to the skin or tissue caused by contact with an electrical current or a hot source. Burns are classified as First Degree, Second Degree and Third Degree.

First Degree burns involve the outer layer of skin called the epidermis. These burns will appear red and swollen and will be very painful. There is no blistering with First Degree burns and they usually heal within 3-6 days without permanent scarring. This burn can be treated by running it under water for several minutes to take the heat out. Aloe-vera lotion or burn ointment may be applied to the area to soothe the burn. Tylenol or Ibuprofen may be taken, per bottle instructions, to alleviate the pain. Apply bacitracin or Neosporin to help prevent infection. Monitor the burn site, if you have any concerns contact your primary care physician.

Second Degree burns are deeper than First Degree burns, they involve the epidermis and part or all of the dermis. Blisters usually appear which are red in color. These burns usually heal in about 3 weeks and may be associated with scarring. Treat this burn by submerging it in cold water for at least five minutes. If blisters occur, do not break them. You may apply sterile gauze over them if clothing irritates the site. If blisters open on their own, apply Silvadene or antibiotic ointment, do not touch it with dirty hands. Monitor the site for infection and contact your primary care physician if you have any concerns.

Third Degree burns involve the entire dermis and destroy hair follicles and sweat glands. These burns are white in appearance and are usually not painful because the nerve endings have been destroyed. They require skin grafting to heal properly and will leave dense scars. This type of burn will require immediate medical attention, call 911.

Electrical Burns A person with an electrical burn (power line) needs immediate medical attention. Electrical burns usually cause internal injury, that may not show on the skin. Call 911.

Chemical Burns A chemical burn should be washed with copious amounts of water. Take off any clothes that have chemical on them. Don't put anything on the burn area, it might start a chemical reaction that could worsen the burn. Immediately call 911.



Have a safe and happy summer