

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual:	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number: 510.26
Subject:	Basic Life Support (BLS) Protocols	Page: 1 of 4
	BURNS	
References:	California Administrative Code, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2	Effective: 11/15/83

I. TREATMENT

- A. Put out fire. Remove burned or hot clothing. Do **not** remove melted clothes or tar like substances off patient.
- B. ABCs – Assessment and treatment.
- C. Thermal Burns
 - 1. Oxygen
 - a. Low flow 6 liters by nasal cannula if awake, alert, in minimal distress, or burns not involving airway.
 - b. High flow 15 liters/min. by non-rebreathing mask if in severe distress, comatose, or inhalation injury, possible carbon monoxide exposure, burns greater than 15% total body surface area (TBSA) or patient unstable.
 - 2. Sterile Dressings to Burned Areas.
 - a. Small burns (less than 15% TBSA) may be covered with moist sterile dressings.
 - b. Large burns (greater than 15% TBSA), use dry dressings to avoid hypothermia.
 - c. Do not dress facial burns.
 - 3. Check for associated injuries.
 - 4. Treat shock, if present.
 - 5. Do not apply ice or creams to the burned area.

Approved By: EMS Division Manager	Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision: 05/15/2007
EMS Medical Director	Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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D. Chemical Burns

1. Remove source of burn. Remove all clothing. Wash with copious amounts of water. (Exception: metallic sodium or lithium.) Do not scrub. Wear protective clothing and gloves. (Sterile water or normal saline if available is preferable for small burns, but any available source of clean water may be used for an extensive burn).
2. Oxygen
 - a. Low flow 6 liters by nasal cannula if no respiratory involvement.
 - b. High flow 15 liters/min. by non-rebreathing mask if comatose, in severe respiratory distress or airway involvement. Assist respirations if needed.
3. Apply sterile dressings after irrigation is complete.
4. Check for associated injuries.
5. Treat shock, if present.
6. Do not apply ice or creams to the burned area.

II. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Assessment – Airway burns, singed nose or facial hair, lung sounds, nature and extent of the burn, mental status, smoke inhalation, duration of exposure.
- B. Transport lights/siren if airway burns or respiratory distress, unmanageable airway, major trauma, or condition is deteriorating despite treatment.
- C. Consider all patients in an enclosed space confinement fire to have carbon monoxide exposure.
- D. The following patients should be transported directly to the Regional Burn Center (Regional Medical Center) bypassing other hospitals if ETA to RMC is within two hours:
 1. Patients with 2° (partial thickness) or 3° (full thickness) burns that are more than 10% total body surface area,
 2. Patients with 2° (partial thickness) or 3° (full thickness) circumferential burns of any part,
 3. Patients with 2° (partial thickness) or 3° (full thickness) burns to face, hands, feet, major joints, perineum, or genitals,
 4. Electrical burns with voltage greater than 120 volts,
 5. Patients with chemical burns greater than 10% total body surface area, and
 6. Any patient meeting trauma triage criteria to Regional Medical Center.

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E. History

1. Type of burn (thermal, chemical, electrical, radiation)
2. Enclosed space? Blast?
3. Blunt trauma?
4. Associated trauma?
5. Duration of exposure?
6. Time of occurrence?
7. If chemical, what type?
8. If electrical, what voltage/amperage?
9. LOC?

F. Physical Exam

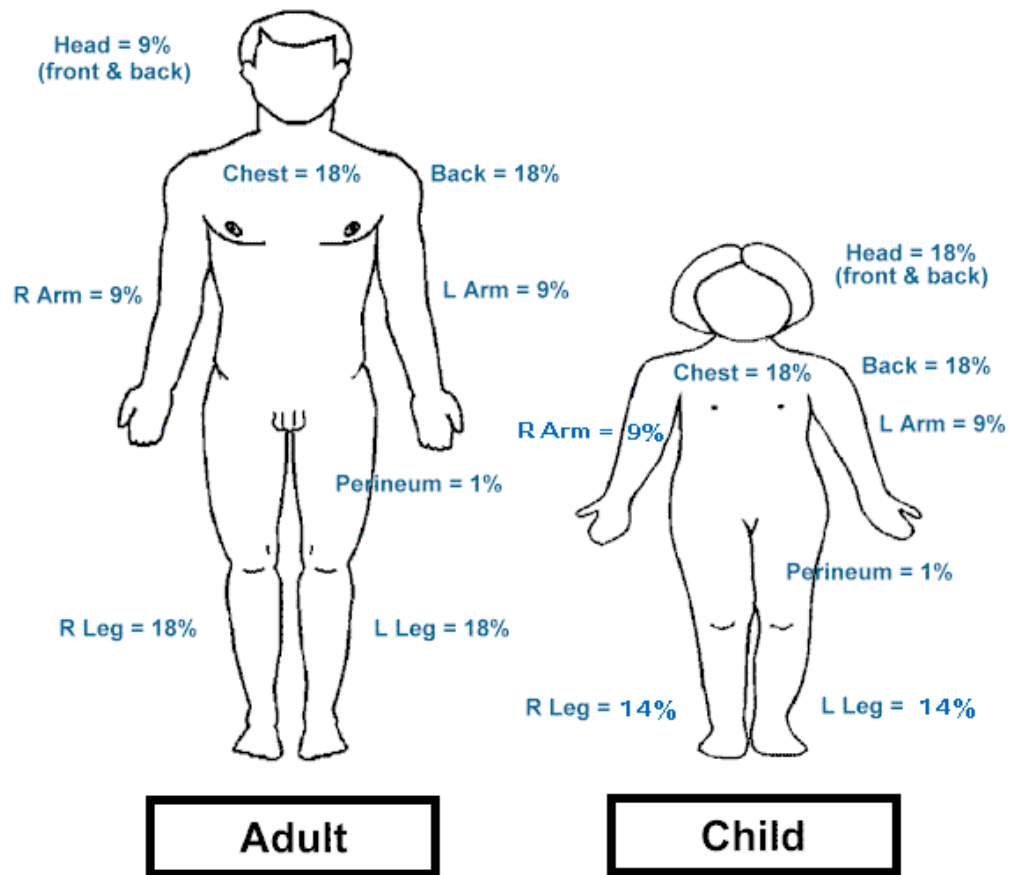
1. Airway
 - a. Oral or nasal burns?
 - b. Nasal hairs burnt?
 - c. Blisters or soot in mouth?
 - d. Soot in sputum?
2. Percentage of Body Surface Burned – Rule of 9s
3. Depth of Burn
 - a. “Superficial” (First Degree) – Erythema only
 - b. “Partial Thickness” (Second Degree) – Blisters, sensation and capillary refill present
 - c. “Full Thickness” (Third Degree) – White or charred, firm to touch, lack of sensation
4. Involvement of eyes, hands, feet, airway, genitalia?

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Rule of Nine's

NOTE: Generally Patients Palm = 1% of Body Surface Area