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Burns and scalds can sometimes lead tofurther problems, including shock, heat exhaustion, infection and scarring. After a serious injury,it's possible to go into shock. Shock is a life-threatening condition that occurs when there's an insufficient supply of oxygen to the body.It's possible to go into shock after a serious burn.Signs and symptoms of shock include:a pale facecold or clammy skina rapid pulsefast, shallow breathingyawningunconsciousnessDial 999 and ask for an ambulance if you think someone who's been seriously injured is going into shock.While you wait for the ambulance:lay the person down (if their injuries allow it) and raise and support their legsuse a coat or blanket to keep them warm, but do not cover their face or the burnt areado not give them anything to eat or drink Heat exhaustion and heatstrokeare 2 heat-related health conditions that happen when the temperature inside your body rises to 37 to 40C or above.Both heat exhaustion and heatstroke can be very serious. They're often caused bybeing exposedto too much sunlight or heat.Symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke include:extreme tiredness and lack of energydizziness or faintingfeeling sick or vomitingrapid pulseheadachemuscle painirritabilityconfusionIf a person with heat exhaustion is taken quickly to a cool place, given water to drink and has their clothing loosened, they should start to feel better within half an hour.If they don't, they could develop heatstroke. This is a medical emergency and you'll need to call 999 for an ambulance.Read more about what to do if someone has heat exhaustion or heatstroke. Wounds can become infected if bacteria get into them. If your burn or scald has a blister that's burst, it may become infected if it's not kept clean.Seek medical attention for any burn that causes a blister.Your wound may be infected if:it's uncomfortable, painful or smellyyou have a high temperature of 38C or higheryou have signs of cellulitis, a bacterial infection that causes redness and swelling of the skinContact your GP or get help from NHS 111 if you think your burn has become infected. An infection can usually be treated with antibiotics and painkilling medication, if necessary.In rare cases, an infected burn can cause blood poisoning (sepsis) or toxic shock syndrome. These serious conditions can be fatal if not treated.Signs of sepsis and toxic shock syndrome include:a high temperaturedizzinessvomiting Ascar is a patch or line of tissue that remains after a wound has healed. Most minor burns only leave minimal scarring.You can try to reduce the risk of scarring after the wound's healed by:applying an emollient, such as aqueous cream or emulsifying ointment, every day until the burn is no longer dry or itchy. This could take 3 to 6 monthsusing sunscreen with a high sun protection factor (SPF) to protect thehealingarea from the sun when you're outside Burns and scalds, especially severe ones, can cause long-lasting distress.After a burn or scald, some people report experiencing:Some people recovering from a burn may also develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which can cause symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares, and unwanted and intrusive thoughts.If you experience any of these emotional issues, you should speak to the staff at the burns care service.They can arrange an appointment with a psychologist with experience of treating people recovering from burns and scalds. Page last reviewed: 23 June 2022 Next review due: 23 June 2025 Your Injury Lawyers By Your Side When You Need Us Most Our practice areas TORKLAW is a plaintiffs-only law firm. That means we represent the victims: people who have been injured or have lost a loved one due to someone elses negligence or wrongdoing. If your injury or loss was because of a car accident, motorcycle accident, defective product, unsafe property, dangerous workplace or hazardous roadway, we can help you. Free case evaluation Do you find dealing with insurance companies to be confusing, exhausting, and intimidating? Imagine doing it when you are injured or grieving. Insurance adjusters will try to take advantage of you, and convince you to take a settlement offer that is lower than you deserve. According to studies, accident victims who hire legal representation recover more money than those who do not. 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By clicking Accept, you consent to the use of ALL the cookies.Manage consentBurns are painful wounds caused by thermal, cold, electrical, chemical or electromagnetic energy.The most common symptoms of burns are skin that is: Red Peeling Blistered SwollenDoctors typically diagnose burns by: Physical examination Classifying the burn asfirst-, second- or third-degreeBurn treatment depends on the severity of the injury: Less-severe burns usually heal on their own within a week More severe burns may require: Immediate care in an emergency department or burn unit Special bandages or dressings Our pediatric specialists provide personalized care for your childs physical, mental and emotional health needs. Meet the providers and schedule an appointment today.Burns are painful wounds caused by thermal, cold, electrical, chemical or electromagnetic energy. Smoking and open flame are the leading causes of burn injury in adults. Scalding is the leading cause of burn injury in children. Both infants and older adults are at the greatest risk for burn injury.There are many types of burns caused by thermal, radiation, chemical, or electrical contact. Thermal burns.These burns are due to heat sources which raise the temperature of the skin and tissues. They cause tissue cell death or charring. When hot metals, scalding liquids, steam, and flames come into contact with the skin, they can cause thermal burns. Cold exposure burns (frostbite).Damage to the skin is caused by exposure to cold. Radiation burns.These burns are due to prolonged exposure to ultraviolet rays of the sun, or to other sources of radiation such as X-ray. Chemical burns.These burns are due to strong acids, alkalis, detergents or solvents that come into contact with the skin, eyes, mouth or gastrointestinal tract. Electrical burns.These burns are from electrical current.Burns are classified as first-, second-, or third-degree, depending on how deep and severely they penetrate the skin's surface. First-degree (superficial) burns. First-degree burns affect only the epidermis, or outer layer of skin. The burn site is red, painful, dry, and with no blisters. Mild sunburn is an example. Long-term tissue damage is rare and usually involves an increase or decrease in the skin color. Second-degree (partial thickness) burns. Second-degree burns involve the epidermis and part of the dermis layer of skin. The burn site appears red, blistered and may be swollen and painful. Third-degree (full thickness) burns. Third-degree burns destroy the epidermis and dermis. Third-degree burns may also damage the underlying bones, muscles and tendons. When bones, muscles, or tendons are also burned, this may be called a fourth-degree burn. The burn site looks white or charred. There is no feeling in the area because of nerve damage.Burns that are more severe and widespread need specialized treatment. The age of a burn victim, the location of the burn, and the percentage of the body's surface area affected are the most important factors affecting the outlook of a burn injury. The American Burn Association recommends that those who meet these criteria should be treated at a specialized burn center: People with partial-thickness burns over 10% or more of the total body surface area (TBSA) Any age with full-thickness burns Burns of the face, hands, feet, groin, or genital area, or burns that extend all the way around a part of the body Burns that happen along with an inhalation injury that affects the airway or the lungs Burns that occur with existing long-term (chronic) conditions that may greatly affect how the burn heals. These conditions include diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney disease and multiple sclerosis. Suspected child or elder abuse. This person will need social, emotional or rehab help Chemical burn Electrical injuryA severe burn can be a seriously devastating injury, both physically and emotionally. It can affect the burn victim and their family. People with severe burns may be left with a loss of certain physical abilities. These may include loss of limb(s), disfigurement, loss of mobility, scarring and recurrent infections. Severe burns can also penetrate deep skin layers. This can cause muscle or tissue damage that may affect every system of the body.Burns can also cause emotional problems such as depression, nightmares or flashbacks from the traumatizing event. The loss of a friend or family member and possessions in the fire may add grief to the emotional impact of a burn.The Division of Dermatology at Children's National Hospital continues to expand services as more families seek our expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the skin, hair and nails. Learn more about our division.Our plastic and reconstructive surgeons perform plastic surgery procedures for conditions ranging from birth defects to burns for babies, children and teens. Learn more about this department.Children's National has the only Pediatric Level I Trauma Center in the Washington, D.C., area and accepts trauma patients from all geographic areas. We partner with the Maryland Shock Trauma System to provide coverage in Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles counties. Whether youre at home or work, outside, or riding on a public bus, a burn injury can happen anywhere. Depending on the extent of the burn, these injuries can be debilitating, changing your life in a matter of minutes. The American Burn Association estimates that about450,000 people are treatedfor burn injuries in hospital emergency rooms every year that figure doesnt include burn injuries treated outside hospital settings, like doctors offices or clinics. If you or a loved one has suffered a burn injury, you should contact a personal injury attorney immediately. Burn lawsuits ensure that you receive compensation for your injury, especially if someone elses negligence caused it. Burn injuries have different root causes. According to the American Burn Association, most hospital burn patientssustained their injuries: In a fire Through exposure to a very hot liquid or steam Through contact with some form of electricity such as a power outlet By being exposed to chemicals Roughly 73% of burn injuries typically occur at home, according to the ABA, with around 8% occurring at work, 5% on the road, and another 5% during recreational activities. There are four different degrees of burns, and theyre classified by category depending on how severely the skin gets penetrated. The higher the degree, the more severe the burn. First-degree burns are the most common, with many people experiencing one at some point in their lives. This type of burn injury is the most superficial burn, affecting only the outer layer of your skin, or the epidermis. The main cause of a first-degree burn is mild sunburn. When you stay outdoors too long without sunscreen protection, the suns UV rays can burn your skin. Another example of such burns, especially in children, is scalding. If boiling water touches your skin, the heat will burn it. Imagine opening the lid of a steaming pot on the stove. If you put your hand or face too close, the steam can burn the skin. Extremely hot water during a shower or bath can burn the skin, too. Burns from electrical sockets or cords can also cause first-degree burns as can burns from exposure to flames or touching something hot. The symptoms of a first-degree burn include redness, pain, and possible inflammation. Generally, there are no blisters, and any long-term damage to your skin tissue is rare. First-degree burns can be treated at home most of the time. A cool compress can help with the pain. However, make sure it is not too cold, as this can damage the skin. Also, applying aloe vera can help with pain as can honey, lotion, or antibiotic ointments. A hospital visit is generally not required. But if the burn injury is too painful or you just want some advice on how to treat it, a call or trip to the doctor may be warranted. It can take a few days to a few weeks for a first-degree burn to heal. It all depends on the area affected. A second-degree burn happens when both the epidermis and a portion of the dermis the layer of skin beneath the outer one are injured. Like first-degree burns, the causes of second-degree burns include scalding, touching a hot object, more severe sunburns, and exposure to a flame, chemicals, or electricity. These burns can be superficial or they can be more dangerous and deeper. A second-degree burn will be red and there will be blisters. It will be painful to the touch and inflamed. The area itself might be white or discolored or may look wet. Treatment for second-degree burns can vary. If the burn is not too large or too severe, then treatment can be done at your doctors office or a clinic. A trip to the hospital, however, should be considered when the burn is severe, covers a lot of the body, or when there is a high risk of infection. You may need to have the burn injury cleaned and the dressings replaced frequently. Using antibiotic ointment can also prevent bacteria from infecting the wounded area. If theres a high risk of infection or if the burn is found to have been infected, a doctor may prescribe oral antibiotics or IV antibiotics if youre admitted to the hospital. If the burn is more severe, a skin graft transplanting healthy tissue from one area of the body to the injured spot may be considered. Second-degree burns take several days to a few weeks to heal. Deeper burns may take a bit longer. A third-degree burn destroys both the epidermis and the dermis in their entirety. Sometimes, fatty tissue is also destroyed. The causes of a third-degree burn include scalding and exposure to fire, a dangerous chemical, or electricity. These incidents will have a more severe impact than incidents caused by first- or second-degree burns. The affected area of a third-degree burn will be inflamed and discolored. The color may be white, black, or grey. It can also look charred and have a dry, leathery texture. There will not be any pain because the nerve endings, which send signals of pain to the brain, are most likely destroyed. Third-degree burns are more complex, dangerous, and can cause more problems than first- and second-degree burns. If you experience this type of burn injury, you should go to ER right away. The hospital can provide IV antibiotics and replace lost electrolytes. Hospital staff will also remove any dead skin and clean the burn site. Skin grafts are also an option. Because the epidermis and dermis are destroyed, no new skin or hair follicles will grow in the damaged area, which is why skin grafts are usually necessary. Also, because third-degree burns are more severe, youre at a higher risk of fatal complications. Fourth-degree burn injuries extend to both the epidermis and dermis as well as the deeper tissues. This type of burn injury can affect your muscles, tendons, and nerves. Touching a hot surface, exposure to an open flame or a building fire, or exposure to a chemical are some causes of fourth-degree burns. These causes may seem similar to the ones that cause the other burn types weve discussed, but fourth-degree burns are generally more severe. While unintentionally touching a candle flame can cause a first or second-degree burn, for example, exposure to flames because you were trapped inside a burning building has the potential to cause a third- or fourth-degree burn. Theres no pain with fourth-degree burns because all of the nerve endings are destroyed. The burned site is a charred color or white. You may even be able to see bone or tissue muscle. A fourth-degree burn is a medical emergency. An ambulance should be called immediately so you can be taken to the hospital. You will receive different medications, including IV antibiotics and IV fluids. A skin graft will be needed. Physical therapy may also be needed if movement is affected by the burn. Youre at risk of going into shock from your bodys inflammatory response to the burn so you may need to be monitored. Theres also a risk of amputation with fourth-degree burns so it is important to go to the hospital right away. Fourth-degree burns are very dangerous as they affect not just the skin. They can have an impact on other parts of the body such as your muscles and other organs. According to theNational Institute of General Medical Sciences, a person who has sustained burns to 90% of their body can survive, albeit with other health problems. It should be noted that there are also fifth- and sixth-degree burns. Fifth-degree burns go into the muscle while sixth-degree burns go into the bone. What you should do if you experience a burn injury depends on the extent of the damage. Minor burns (the first- and second-degree kind) can be treated at home or by visiting your doctor. With these injuries, you should: Remove any jewelry or coverings near the burn. Run the burn under cool water until the pain subsides. Do not use cold water or ice this can damage the skin. Apply a lotion to soothe any pain. Take over-the-counter medication for the pain (if you are able). Cover the area with a sterile bandage or gauze. Seek medical help if the burn does not heal or if you get a persistent fever the latter may be a sign the burn became infected. Major burns (the third- and fourth-degree types) will require a hospital visit. If you experience a major burn, you should call 911 and get to the hospital immediately. While waiting to be treated, you should: Keep the burn area raised so that it is above the heart. Cover the burn injury with a cool bandage (never cold). Do not apply any creams or ointments. If you experienced a burn injury through the negligence of others,Morris & Dewett Injury Lawyerscan help. We have an extensive background in handling burn lawsuits, winning cases that bring our burn victims the compensation they deserve. One of our experienced personal injury attorneys will be able to assess the facts of what happened and determine whether your burn injury happened as a result of negligence. If thats the case, you may be entitled to relief, easing the financial stress youre likely experiencing. Dont delay in getting the help you need. Contact the Morris & Dewett Injury Lawyers today! This of course is my 2nd time allowing Morris & Dewett to represent me once again, and I must say I was taking care of during the entire process. When out of work due to the extent of my injuries, they made sure my bills stayed paid up, and Ms Kat did a great job at listening to me when I need it the most and helping me mentally as well physically going out of her way at times to make sure I got things done in my therapy to get me back to being able to do things with my family once again, & Ms. Oz, I like to call her, is the toughest Lawyer on the planet, I strongly recommend her if anyone ever needs the best Lawyer in their firm, in my opinion, & not bragging but she most definitely got me the biggest amount of money I've ever seen that wasn't on TV….Great Job guys Aburnis aninjuryto the skin and other tissues typically caused by heat, cold, chemicals, electricity, radiation, or friction. Most burns are minor, and the injured person doesnt need to be hospitalized. However, some burns require emergency treatment, and around 6.5 percent of all burns have to be treated in a specialized burn center. Whether or not a patient requires specialized treatment depends on a range of factors. These include the depth of the burns, the surface area of the body that was burned, and the age and health of the patient. About 86 percent of burns are thermal burns. These are injuries caused by excessive heat, and they are usually due to contact with steam, flames, hot liquids, or hot surfaces. Forty-three percent are from fire or flames, 34 percent from scalds, and nine percent from hot objects. Other types of burns include electrical burns, friction burns, and chemical burns. Risk Factors for Thermal Burns Anyone can suffer a thermal burn, but some people are more at risk than others. Children and males are especially at risk. Children are often in contact with hot liquids, while males tend to work in jobs that make burn injuries more likely. Thermal burns resulting from flames are more common during the summer when people use gasoline for outdoor activities. Alcohol consumption is also a risk factor in burn injuries among adults. In addition, not having smoke detectors in a building puts the occupants in danger of suffering burns. How Thermal Burns Affect the Skin To understand thermal burns, its important to know some basic facts about the skin. The skin is the largest organ of the human body, and it accounts for around 16 percent of an individuals weight. It protects the body against infection, regulates temperature, and prevents fluid loss. The skin is made up of three layers, the epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis or subcutaneous tissue. The epidermis is the thinner outer layer, while the dermis is a thicker, deeper layer, and the hypodermis is the innermost layer. The latter is made up of fat as well as connective tissues that surround larger blood vesselsand nerves.The thickness of this layer varies throughout the body and also from one person to another. Types of Burns The severity of a burn injury depends on the number of skin layers that are affected. Burns were traditionally categorized by degree, but healthcare professionals now classify them based on whether theyre full, partial, or superficial. These more or less correspond with the three layers of the skin. However, many burn injuries involve all three types of burns. A superficial burn is one that involves only the epidermis. This type of injury is red and painful, and the area turns white when it is touched. There are no blisters present, and the skin is moist. Partial-thickness burns involve both the epidermis and some part of the dermis. This type of burn can be either superficial or deep, depending on how much of the dermis is affected. Superficial partial-thickness burns are also red and painful, and the burned area turns white when touched. The skin is mottled and moist, and both blisters and hairs are present. With deep partial-thickness burns, sometimes the damage goes so deep that the nerve endings are destroyed. This means this type of burn isnt always painful. If the sweat glands are also destroyed, the skin will be dry rather than moist. The hair is usually gone, and the area may not turn white when it is touched. Full-thickness burns are the most severe since they affect all of the first two layers of the skin. This means hair follicles, nerve endings, small sweat glands, and small blood vessels are all destroyed. In the most serious cases, even bones and muscles are damaged. These burns are painless, and theres no sensation to touch. The skin is dry, and it may be charred or pearly white. It may also appear leathery. When to Seek Medical Attention for Thermal Burns Minor burns can be treated at home, while more serious burns will require a doctors attention. Victims should seek emergency medical care for partial or full-thickness burns on the hands, feet, eyes, ears, or genitals. Any burn over a major joint should also be treated as an emergency. Other emergencies include: Full-thickness burn injuries that look dry or charred Partial-thickness burns that are larger than the injured persons palm Any burn that results in uncontrollable pain Some situations require that the victim be transported in an ambulance. These include: Large full or partial-thickness burns about the body Burns to the face that cause problems with breathing Significant exposure to smoke in a closed room Loss of consciousness Treatment and Recovery Burn wounds change in the days following injury as inflammation sets in, and healing begins. Older adults and those who are ill often take longer to heal even when their thermal burns are superficial. Meanwhile, burns on the feet and lower leg tend to get deeper and more painful in the subsequent days, especially if the patient doesnt keep the leg elevated. Small superficial burn injuries dont usually become infected. However, sometimes burn that were initially classified as superficial dont heal, or they appear to be getting deeper. This can be a sign of infection. If a wound doesnt seem like it will 14 days after the injury, more specialized treatment may be necessary. A team of healthcare professionals, including emergency physicians, burn nurses, dietitians, dermatologists, and plastic surgeons, may be required to treat severe burns. Extensive partial-thickness and full-thickness burns require prolonged treatment. In addition to weeks or months of dressing changes, some patients need several plastic surgery procedures. Physical therapy and pain management also form part of the treatment process. The effects of a serious burn injury arent only physical, and patients may also need mental health treatment. Many experience anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and sleep disturbances. Prognosis The outcome of a burn injury depends on several factors. Superficial burns have a good prognosis, but partial and full-thickness burns can have high mortality and mobility. Really young or really old patients are also at greater risk of having poor outcomes. Inhalation injuries and other co-morbidities also affect the outcome. Resources Getting burned is always an excruciating experience. The shock, pain, and scarring are all blatant reminders that the body has just experienced trauma. But, not all burns are the same. Minor ones can heal with a topical ointment. However, the more serious the burn, the higher the risk of infection and having it affect your overall health. What are the types of burns that require medical attention? How can you learn to recognize symptoms? And, if you were relatively lucky enough to only get a minor one, whats the best way to treat it?Degrees of Skin BurnsThe skin has three layers: epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis. The epidermis is the outermost layer and serves as protection to the body. The dermis is right under the epidermis, and it contains hair follicles and sweat glands. The hypodermis is the innermost layer, and it contains fat and tissue connecting the skin to the muscles and bones.There are three degrees of burns first, second, and third-degree. They range in severity from minor to significant skin damage, with third-degree burns being the most dangerous. Its also important to note that there are several ways of burning your skin open flames, touching a hot surface, chemical burns (from chemicals or detergents), cold burns (frostbite), sunburns, and friction burns. They all can cause damage to your skin.First-Degree BurnsThese types of burns cause minimal skin damage. They only affect the epidermis and heal within two weeks, without leaving any scars. Signs include pain, redness, and minor inflammation. As the burn heals, you may also notice peeling skin.Second-Degree BurnsThese types of burns include damage to the epidermis and dermis. They also cause the skin to blister. Since the blisters can pop open, they are more prone to infection. They usually take within three weeks to heal and while theres no scarring you may notice a difference in skin pigmentation at the site of the wound.Third-Degree BurnsThese are the most severe types of burns affecting every layer of the skin, all the way to the hypodermis. And, while they are the most dangerous, its possible that the person experiencing it may not feel as much pain as with other types of burns, due to nerve damage. Signs include a waxy, white color, charred skin, or a leathery texture. They can take a significant time to heal, and typically leave scars.Signs You Should Go To the ER ImmediatelyYou should never attempt to treat a third-degree burn on your own. Even if you feel no pain, call 911. Failing to seek immediate medical attention can result in a long list of complications such as infections, blood loss, dehydration, sepsis, tetanus, muscle contractions, damage to your nervous system, andgoing into shock.In addition, there are circumstances that require medical attention on an emergency basis, regardless of the type of burn. These include:The burn is on your face, hands, feet, or on a jointThe burn was caused by an electric shock or a chemicalTheres pus oozing from the burnThe pain gets worse with timeThe burn is larger than three inchesChange in the thickness of the burnFoul odorFeverHow to Treat Minor BurnsFirst-degree burns can be treated at home. To promote healing quicker, use home remedies as soon as possible. These include submerging the burn in cool water for several minutes, applying a topical anesthetic cream or antibiotic ointment, and covering the burn with gauze. If the pain lasts for an extended period of time, take an over-the-counter painkiller.There are some forms of relief that you should avoid. Dont apply ice to your burn, because it may worsen the damage, and dont clean it up with cotton balls, since its fibers can stick to the wound increasing the risk of infection.24-Hour Emergency Room Services in Colorado Springs and TexasIf you or a loved one have a medical emergency, we can provide the care you need. If you have questions or need immediate treatment,your nearest Complete Care locationis ready to help, no matter the time of day or night. We offer a variety of services to help you and your family in your time of need. No appointments are necessary.Find the Complete Care location nearest you.More than 400,000 people are treated and nearly 4,000 people die each year in the United States from fire and burn injuries. In 2021 according to the CDC, burns were among the top ten list of causes of non-fatal injury in children under the age of 4 and among the top five causes of death in those under 65.Burns are divided into four categories of severity. The higher the number, the more severe.First Degree: First-degree. These burns only affect the outer layer of skin. A mild sunburn is one example. Skin may be red and painful, but you wont have any blisters. Long-term damage is rare.Second-degree. The outer layer of your skin as well the dermis the layer underneath has been damaged. Skin will be bright red, swollen, and may look shiny and wet. There will be blisters, and the burn will hurt to the touch.Third-degree. Sometimes called a full thickness burn, this type of injury destroys two full layers of skin. Instead of turning red, it may appear black, brown, white or yellow.Fourth-degree. This is the deepest and most severe of burns. Theyre potentially life-threatening. These burns destroy all layers of skin, as well as bones, muscles, and tendons.Kitchens are the most dangerous rooms in our houses, and burns top the list of injuries.According to Safe Kids Worldwide, 300 children are treated in emergency departments for burn injuries every day. Scalding burns are the most common type of burn injury seen in kids, especially young children.It just takes a second for a toddler to grab a pot with boiling water from the stove, or a mug of hot coffee on the counter. Young children are the most vulnerable because of their natural curiosity, but they also have thinner skin that burns more quickly.It only takes one second of contact with human skin to cause a serious burn if a liquid is over 160 F. In kids less than five years of age it happens even faster! Deaths from scalding burns are the highest for kids under four years of age.Injuries related to cooking fires are another risk. The National Fire Protection Agency sites cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires. Most people are injured trying to put out the fire themselves. Dont pour water over a grease fire, it actually causes the grease to splatter and spreads the fire. Always keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach.To treat a burn:Remove the person from the heat source and remove any burned clothing, except clothing embedded in the burn.Run cool not cold water over the burn or hold a clean, cold compress on it until the pain subsides. Do not use ice. Do not use not butter or other types of grease.Remove jewelry or tight clothing from around burned areas, and apply a clean bandage. You can also apply antibiotic cream.Seek emergency care for more serious burns and for any burns to the eyes, mouth, hands, and genital areas, even if mild. If the burn covers a large area, get medical attention immediately. Get immediate medical attention if you have any of the following symptoms related to a burn:FeverPuss-like or foul-smelling drainageExcessive swellingRedness of the skinA blister filled with greenish or brownish fluidA burn that doesnt heal in 10 days to two weeksNever break blisters from a burn and remember not to remove clothing stuck to burned skin. If you are helping someone with a serious burn, keep the burned areas elevated to reduce swelling.Chemical and Electrical BurnsFor chemical and electrical burns, call 911 or your local emergency number. Assess the situation to make sure you (and the victim) will not be in contact with the burn source. For electrical injuries, DO NOT approach an injured person until you know the power source has been turned off.For chemical burns:Dry chemicals should be brushed off the skin by a person wearing gloves.Remove the persons clothing and jewelry and rinse chemicals off the skin by placing the person in a shower for 15 to 20 minutes. (Be careful to protect your eyes and the eyes of the injured person.)Wet chemicals should be flushed off affected areas with cool running water for 20 minutes or longer or until emergency help arrives.If you or someone else has swallowed a chemical substance or an object that could be harmful (e.g., watch battery) call poison control first (1-800-222-1222) and then 911. It is helpful to know what chemical product has been swallowed. Take it with you to the hospital.Minor electrical burns can be treated with cool (not cold or ice) compresses. After cleansing, a mild antibiotic ointment and bandage may be applied. A tetanus shot is also recommended, especially if the person has not had one in more than 10 years.For more serious electrical burns:Check for breathing. If the person is not breathing, start rescue breathing if you know how.Raise burned arms and legs higher than the persons heart.Cover the person with cool, wet cloths. Do not use butter, ointments or any other home remedy. Do not break the blisters or remove burned skin. Anyone who thinks they're having a medical emergency should not hesitate to seek care. Federal law ensures that anyone who comes to the emergency department is treated and stabilized, and that their insurance provides coverage based on symptoms, not a final diagnosis.Read more about Know When to Go Burns and scalds are damage to the skin usuallycaused by heat. Both are treated in the same way.A burn is caused by dry heat by an iron or fire, for example.Ascald is caused by something wet, such as hot water or steam. Burns can be very painful and may cause:red or peeling skinblistersswellingwhite or charred skinThe amount of pain you feel is not always related to how serious the burn is. Even a very serious burn may be relatively painless. To treat a burn, follow thefirst aid advice below:immediately get the person away from the heat source to stop the burningremove any clothing or jewellery that's near the burnt area of skin, including babies' nappies,but do notmove anything that's stuck to the skincool the burn with cool or lukewarm running water for20 to 30 minutes do not use ice, iced water, or any creams or greasy substances like buttermake sure the person keeps warmbyusing a blanket,for example,but take care not to rub it against the burnt areaafter cooling the burn, cover the burn by placing a layer of cling film over it a clean plastic bag could also be used for burns on your handuse painkillers such asparacetamol or ibuprofen to treatanypainraise the affected area if possible this helps to reduce swellingif it's an acid or chemical burn, dial 999, carefully try to remove the chemical and any contaminated clothing, and rinse the affected area using as much clean water as possibleRead more about treating burns and scalds. Depending on how serious a burn is, it may be possible to treat it at home.For minor burns, keep the burn clean and do not burst any blisters that form.More serious burns require professional medical attention.You should go to a hospital A&E department for:all chemical and electrical burnslarge or deep burns any burn bigger than the injured person's handburns that cause white or charred skin any sizeburns on the face, neck, hands, feet, any joints or genitalsIf someone has breathed in smoke or fumes, they should also get medical attention.Some symptoms may be delayed and can include:coughinga sore throatdifficulty breathingfacial burnsPeople at greater risk from the effects of burns, such as children under 10 years old, should also get medical attention after a burn or scald.The size and depth of the burn will be assessed, and the affected area cleaned before a dressing is applied.In severe cases, skin graft surgery may be recommended.Read more about:recovering from burns and scaldscomplications of burns and scalds Burns are assessed by how seriously your skin is damaged and which layers of skin are affected.Your skin has 3 layers:the epidermis the outer layer of skinthe dermis the layer of tissue just beneath, which contains blood capillaries, nerve endings, sweat glands and hair folliclesthe subcutaneous fat, or subcutis the deeper layer of fat and tissueThere are 4 main types of burn, which tend to have a different appearance and different symptoms:superficial epidermal burn where the epidermis is damaged; your skin will be red, slightly swollen and painful, but not blisteredsuperficial dermal burnwhere the epidermis and part of the dermis are damaged; your skin will be pale pink and painful, and there may be small blistersdeep dermal or partial thickness burnwhere the epidermis and the dermis are damaged; this type of burn makes your skin turn red and blotchy; your skin may be dry or moist and become swollen and blistered, and it may be very painful or painlessfull thickness burn where all 3 layers of skin (the epidermis, dermis and subcutis) are damaged; the skin is often burnt away and the tissue underneath may appear pale or blackened, while the remaining skin will be dry and white, brown or black with no blisters. The texture of the skin may also be leathery or waxy. It may also be painless Many severe burns and scalds affect babies and young children.Examples of things you can do to help reduce the likelihood of your child having a serious accident at home include:keeping your child out of the kitchen whenever possibletesting the temperature of bath water using your elbow before you put your baby or toddler in the bathkeeping matches, lighters and lit candles out of young children's sight and reachkeeping hot drinks well away from young childrenRead more about preventing burns and scalds. If you need advice about a burn or scald, you can:call 111 or get help from 111 onlinespeak to a GP Page last reviewed: 23 June 2022 Next review due: 23 June 2025 Skip to main content Appropriate first aid must be used to treatany burns or scalds as soon as possible. This will limit the amount of damage to your skin.Youcan apply the followingfirst aidtechniques to yourself or another person who's been burnt. Stop the burning process as soon as possible. This may mean removing the person from the area, dousing flames with water, or smothering flames with a blanket. Do not put yourself at risk of getting burnt as well.Remove any clothing or jewellery near the burnt area of skin, including babies' nappies.But do nottry to remove anything that's stuck to the burnt skin, as this could cause more damage.Cool the burn with cool or lukewarm running water for20 minutes as soon as possible after the injury. Never use ice, iced water, or any creams or greasy substances like butter.Keep yourself or the person warm. Use a blanket or layers of clothing, but avoidputting them onthe injured area. Keeping warm will preventhypothermia, where a person's body temperature drops below 35C (95F). This is a risk if you're cooling a large burnt area, particularly in youngchildren and elderly people.Cover the burn with cling film. Lay the cling film over the burn, rather than wrapping it around a limb. A clean, clear plastic bag can be used for burns on your hand.Treat the pain from a burn with paracetamolor ibuprofen. Always check the manufacturer's instructions when using over-the-counter medication. Children under 16 years of age should not be given aspirin.Raise the affected area, if possible. This will help to reduce swelling. Once you have taken these steps, you'll need to decide whether further medical treatment is necessary.Go toa hospitalaccident and emergency (A&E) departmentfor:large burns bigger than the size of the affected person's handdeep burns of any size that cause white or charred skinburns on the face, neck, hands, feet, any joints, or genitalsall chemical and electrical burnsany other injuries that need treatingany signs of shock symptoms include cold, clammy skin, sweating, rapid, shallow breathing, and weakness or dizzinessYou should also go to hospital if you or the person who has been burned:is under the age of 10has amedical condition, such as heart, lung or liver disease, ordiabeteshas a weakened immune system (the body's defence system) for example, because of HIV or AIDS, or because they'rehaving chemotherapyfor cancerIf someone has breathed in smoke or fumes, they should also get medical attention at hospital.Some symptoms may be delayed, and can include:coughinga sore throatdifficulty breathingsinged nasal hairfacial burnsYou should also go to A&E if you have been injured intentionally, or think someone has been injured intentionally.See recovering from burns and scalds for information on how serious burns are treated. Electrical burns may not look serious, but they can be very damaging. Someone who has an electrical burn should seek immediate medical attention at an A&E department.If the person has been injured by a low-voltage source (up to 220 to 240 volts), such as a domestic electricity supply, safely switch off the power supply or remove the person from the electrical source using a material that doesn't conduct electricity, such as a wooden stick or a wooden chair.Do not approach a person who's connected to a high-voltage source (1,000 volts or more). Acid and chemical burns can be very damaging and requireimmediate medical attention at an A&E department.If possible, find out what chemical caused the burn and tell the healthcare professionals at A&E.If you're helping someone else, put on appropriate protective clothing, such as gloves, and then:remove any contaminated clothingon the personif the chemical is dry, brush it off their skinuse running water to remove any traces of the chemical from the burnt area Follow this advice for sunburn:If you notice any signs of sunburn, such as hot, red and painful skin, move into the shade or preferably inside.Take a cool bath or shower for 10 minutes to cool down the burnt area of skin.Apply aftersun lotion to the affected area to moisturise, cool and soothe it. Don't use greasy or oily products.If you have any pain, paracetamol or ibuprofen should help relieve it. Always read the manufacturer's instructions and do not give aspirin to children under the age of16.Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.Watch out for signs of heat exhaustion or heatstroke, where the temperature inside your body rises to 37 to 40C (98.6 to 104F) or above. Symptoms include dizziness, a rapid pulse or vomiting.If a person with heat exhaustion is taken to a cool place quickly, given water to drink and has their clothing loosened, they should start to feel better within half an hour.If they don't, they could develop heatstroke. This is a medical emergency and you'll need to call 999 for an ambulance.Read more about what to do if someone has heat exhaustion or heatstroke. Page last reviewed: 23 June 2022 Next review due: 23 June 2025 Burns no matter what kind can hurt a lot and deserve immediate attention.But not all burns require you to head to the Emergency Department or Burn Center.Minor burns will heal on their own within a couple of weeks, though they may require some topical ointment to help control the pain. You can usually treat these at home. More severe burns pose the risk of getting infected and require you to get medical attention.But, how can you tell the difference? It depends on the seriousness or degree of skin burn you have, the size of the burn, and the area affected.To understand the seriousness of a burn, you must understand that the skin has three layers:The epidermis (outer layer that you can touch and see).Dermis (middle layer that contains hair follicles and sweat glands).Hypodermis (that contains fat and tissue that connects the skin to the muscles and bones).First-degree burnsonly affect the epidermis and usually heal on their own. Most sunburns are first-degree burns. Signs include pain, redness, and some inflammation. There may be some peeling. Generally, you can protect the skin and alleviate the pain by using an over-the-counter burn ointment.Second-degree burnsdamage both the epidermis and the dermis, and cause the skin to blister. Because these blisters can pop open, they are at risk of becoming infected. Second-degree burns tend to heal in three weeks. Usually, they do not scar, but the skin pigmentation may be different at the burn site.Third-degree burnsare more serious because they affect all layers of the skin, potentially damaging the nerves in the skin. That makes them particularly dangerous because the nerve damage means you cannot feel pain. These burns can take a long time to heal and usually leave scars.When you should go to the ER immediatelyYou should always seek medical help when you suffer a third-degree burn. Such an injury routinely causes complications like infections, blood loss, nervous system damage, and shock.But there are times when more minor burns may require hospital care. Here are a few guidelines:The burn is larger than three inches in diameter on your face, hands, feet, or a joint.The burn was caused by an electric shock or a chemical.There is pus or other fluid leaking from the burn.The pain gets worse with time.Some skin was burned away.The burn smells bad.Treating minor burnsFirst-degree burns can usually be treated at home. To promote quick healing, submerge the burn in cool water for several minutes, then apply a topical anesthetic cream or antibiotic ointment, and cover the burn with gauze. If the pain lasts for an extended period of time, take an over-the-counter pain reliever.But never put ice on your burn, because it can worsen the damage. Also, dont clean it with cotton balls, since cotton fibers can stick to the wound and increase the risk of infection.Caring for second- and third-degree burnsCall 911 to seek immediate medical attention for second- and third-degree burns. Paramedics are trained on how best to transport burn victims. But before a burn victim goes to an emergency room, taking a few steps can decrease the severity of the injury.Because serious burns can result in life-threatening infections and leave permanent scars, if youre not sure about the severity of a burn, call 911 and have emergency medical services personnel transport you to the most appropriate care.Grady is home to the Grady Burn Center Georgias only adult and pediatric burn center and north Georgias only American Burn Association verified burn center. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . 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