First Aid For Minor Burns

Minor burns can be first degree—red skin and possibly small blisters—or even second and third degree if they cover only small areas of the body and aren't on the hands, face, feet or genitals. Anything else should be considered a major burn, requiring immediate medical attention.

Treating Minor Burns

- Cool the burn (flush it with water) and get rid of its cause.
- Watch for shock and treat it if you need to.
- Don't scrub the burn, break blisters or use neutralizers or ointments.
- After flushing, cover the burn with a sterile bandage.

Heat Burns

- Rinse with plain tap water until pain goes away.
- Dry the burn by patting it with a sterile bandage, and wrap it with a loose, sterile dressing.

Chemical Burns

• Follow any directions on the container's label.

• Brush the chemical off if it is dry.

• Rinse the burn with water for 15 to 20 minutes.

Electrical Burns

- Get the victim away from electrical current without touching it yourself.
 - Check breathing and heartbeat—do rescue breathing and CPR if necessary and if you know how.
 - Treat minor burns with cool water where electricity entered and left the body.
 - Call for emergency medical personnel to assist you.

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