## **Burns**

#### Note

If you see the telephone symbol ( ) next to any sign below occurring in the student, call for help (EMS/9-1-1, school nurse, first aid-trained staff).

## **Chemical Burns**

#### Action

- 1. Delegate a call to the Poison Help Hotline (1-800-222-1222), giving the caller the name of the chemical and a brief description of the incident.
- 2. If unable to reach the Poison Center, follow first aid instructions listed on the chemical container. Save container to provide to EMS/medical staff.
- 3. Carefully brush dry chemicals off skin with gloved hand or piece of cloth prior to flushing with water.
- Remove non-adhering clothing and jewelry from and around burn prior to or while flushing area.
  - Place burned area under cool running water and flush until pain relieved.
    For an eye, be sure eye is open and turn head to side so water runs from the nose outward (not into the other eye).
  - When both eyes are involved, flush simultaneously by tipping the head back and pouring water into both.
- 5. Leave blisters intact.
- 6. Cover area with clean dressing if available.
- 7. **Do not** apply creams.

Burn information is continued on the next page

# **Burns** (continued)

# **Electrical Burns/Electric Shock**

#### Action

- 1. Call for help IMMEDIATELY (EMS/9-1-1, school nurse, first aid-trained staff) and if necessary, to custodial staff or power company, to deactivate electrical power source.
- 2. AFTER contact is broken with electrical source, begin CPR for absent breathing if you are trained.
- 3. Check for wound(s) and follow "Wound" action (p. 75).
- 4. If student has stable breathing and circulation, run cool tap water over burn until pain is relieved, based upon student's comfort. An alternative is to apply cool, wet, sterile 4x4s that are kept wet.

#### 5. **Do not:**

- Move the student except for safety reasons.
- Use ointments.
- Touch the burn.
- 6. Keep student as warm and dry as possible.

Burn information is continued on the next page

# **Burns** (continued)

# **Burn (by Heat/Fire)**

#### Look for

- Breathing problems
- Drainage from mouth, nose that is flecked with black particles
- Blackened face, lips
- Skin dry, pale, white, brown, or charred
- Burn covers area greater than \$1 bill or involves head, face, neck, hand, genitals, feet
- Red, blistered skin

## Listen for signs of

Coughing, rattling, wheezing breathing

#### and statements about

Pain

#### Action

- 1. Call for help (EMS/9-1-1, school nurse, first aid-trained staff).
- 2. Without endangering yourself, remove student from source of fire.
  - If clothing is ignited have student stop, drop, and roll. You may extinguish with water. **Do not** allow student to run.
- 3. Begin CPR for absent breathing if you are trained.
- 4. Apply nothing to the burned area but cool water. **Do not** use ice. Rinse burned area with cool tap water at least until pain is relieved.
- 5. Remove clothing and jewelry (unless stuck to burned skin) surrounding the burn as rinsing continues.
- 6. Avoid breaking blisters.
- 7. Keep student who is badly burned quiet, comfortable, and warm. Wrap student in a clean sheet for extensive burns.
- 8. Cover a smaller burn area only if clothing or other objects irritate it. Use a loose, sterile dressing.
- 9. If a nurse is unavailable, share with parent the need for immediate medical attention and likewise for signs of infection after a burn (redness, pain, pus, streaks, swelling, or foul smell).

# Burn information is continued on the next page

# **Burns** (continued)

# Sunburn

#### Look for

- Widespread blisters
- Unusual rash
- Fever, severe swelling, pus

#### **Listen for** statements about

- Feeling sick
- Feeling dizzy
- Nausea, vomiting

#### Action

- 1. For any sign above call school nurse and parent. If a nurse is unavailable, share with parent the need for immediate medical attention.
- 2. For complaints of pain, a cool, moist, clean cloth may be applied for 15-30 minutes.
- 3. Encourage student to drink extra fluids.
- 4. Watch for signs of heat exhaustion/stroke.