



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Burns to adults occurring in the workplace, result from:

- **Thermal burns** - open flames, steam, hot liquid, hot objects and explosions.
- **Chemical burns** – contact with strong acids, alkaloids, corrosives or caustics.
- **Electrical burns** – current travels through the body and meets resistance in tissue.
- **Sun exposure burns** – technically the same as thermal burns, but worthy of distinct consideration.

Protect yourself by being aware of the potential burn hazards throughout your work area and taking action to lower your risk.

- ✓ Be knowledgeable about chemicals you work with whether it be on the farm, in a lab, or around maintenance work. Understand how products you work with may react with other nearby materials.
- ✓ Have a plan so if there is an emergency incident. Know what to do (first aid, mitigation & scene safety) and who to call (911 & supervisor numbers).
- ✓ Clearly mark high-voltage machinery and identify live wires. Avoid working on live electrical components unless you are trained & have the appropriate tools to do so safely. Avoid contact with water when around electrical equipment & cords. Guard and cover electrical contacts & exposed wiring.
- ✓ Identify hot pipes and guard areas that may release hot liquids or steam.
- ✓ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment to minimize hazard exposure (protective gloves, lab coats, glasses/face shields, flame retardant clothing, hats & sun-protective clothing).

If you or a co-worker is burned, don't hesitate to get immediate medical help and notify your supervisor.

Chemical and electrical burns, or burns to the head, neck, genitals, hands or feet are most concerning and should be quickly addressed by medical professional to minimize additional problems and reduce long-term damage.

First Aid for Burns:

- Act quickly when a worker is burned & call for emergency medical help as soon as possible.
- Remove the victim from the heat or other source of the burn.
- Know the location of emergency showers and eyewash stations.
- Use large amounts of cool water to cool the burn for at least 5 minutes, unless it is an electrical burn or a burn due to the freezing of anhydrous ammonia. Never use ice or ice-cold water to cool a burn. Apply a soaked towel, sheet or wet cloth to burned areas that can't be immersed in water.
- Remove all jewelry, watches, rings and clothing around the burned area as soon as possible. Do not try to remove clothing that is stuck to burned skin.
- Cover the burn loosely with bandage or clean, dry cloth to protect it but avoid putting too much pressure on the burned tissue.

For more info contact:

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Sources:

<https://www.usfsha.com/osa-articles/workplace-burn-prevention/>
<http://ameriburn.org>