

Health Safety

City of Lockport Fire Department

BURN CONCERNS

WHAT TO DO

When a Burn Injury Occurs:

- **Stop the Burning Process**
 - Remove the heat
- **Stop, Drop, Roll**
 - If clothes catch fire, smother the flames.
- **Do Not Run**
 - Running makes the burn injury worse.
- **Remove all Burned Clothing**
 - Clothing may retain heat and cause deeper injuries. If clothes adhere to skin, cut or tear around adherent area.
- **Pour Cool Running Water Over Burn**
 - Pour water over burned area for 10-15 minutes.
- **DO NOT Apply Ointments or Butter**
 - They may cause infections due to their oil base and provoke deeper injury.
- **For Minor Burn Injuries**
 - Use antiseptic spray to relieve pain and prevent infection. Cover with a clean, dry dressing. Wash daily with soap and water and change dressing. If wound begins to drain excessively or has a foul odor, seek medical attention immediately.
- **Larger Surface Area Burns**
 - For burns larger than a fist, cool the area as suggested above, cover with a dry clean dressing, then seek medical attention immediately.
- **Assisting an Electrically Inured Victim**
 - Do not touch the victim if he/she is still in contact with the source of electricity. Dial 911 for emergency assistance.
- **Remove**
 - All jewelry, belts, and tight clothing from burn area. Swelling starts immediately.

WHAT CAUSES A BURN?

- **Extreme Heat**
- **Chemicals**
- **Electricity**

Extreme heat, such as flames, hot liquids, hot metal, flash explosions and the sun's radiation can cause burn injuries.

Chemicals, such as acid lye and bleach are only some of the popular chemicals that can cause a burn.

Inhalation burns can be caused by thermal or chemical exposure.

BURN CONCERN FACT SHEET

Each year, more than 2 million Americans seek medical attention for burns.

70,000 Americans are hospitalized and up to 10,000 die as a result of thermal injury or burn-related infection annually.

Fire and burns were the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in 1998.

Two thirds of all fire fatalities are men.

The death rate for thermal injury is highest among children and the elderly.