	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	8025.18
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Signature on File	Signature on File	
EMS Medical Director	EMS Administrator	

Purpose:

A. To establish the treatment standard for patients burned by caustic material, electricity or heat.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Protocol:

BLS

- 1. ABC's/Routine Medical Care:
 - a. Stop the burning process. Remove patient from source of the burn. Remove burning or smoldering clothing and remove jewelry. Administer supplemental O₂ as necessary to maintain SpO₂ ≥ 94%. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway adjuncts. Check for associated injuries and apply dry sterile dressings to burned areas.
- 2. Inhalation Injury: Assess for:
 - a. Burns around face and neck..
 - b. Singed nasal hairs.
 - c. Soot around nose and mouth.
 - d. Chemical inhalation.
- 3. Caustic and Chemical Burns: Wear protective clothing and gloves and consider the presence of hazardous materials. Remove source of burn. Remove all clothing. Wash with copious amounts of water. Do not scrub.
- 4. Electrical Burns: Electrical burns are potentially severe injuries not apparently visible from the surface wound that require further treatment in the hospital. Check for, and dress all entrance and exit wounds.
- 5. Transport.

NOTE: Check for associated injuries. Treat shock, if present. Do not apply ice or creams to the area. Fire in enclosed space suggests smoke inhalation or carbon monoxide poisoning.

ALS

- 1. Advanced Airway: Consider early if evidence of airway burns.
- 2. Cardiac Monitoring, Sp0₂ monitoring, and ETCO₂ monitoring for intubated patients.
- 3. Initiate large bore vascular access in patients with major burns (>9%).
 - Titrate to systolic blood pressure of ≥ 90 mmHg.
 - Administer 500 ml normal saline fluid bolus to all adult patients with a Total Body Surface Area (TBSA) of burns ≥ 50%
 - When possible the preferred vascular access site is an unburned area.
- 4. Pain Management: If partial or full thickness burn with moderate to severe pain and without evidence of or mechanism of internal head, chest or abdominal injury, consider administration of pain medication per PD# 8066 Pain Management.

NOTE: Any patient with the following shall be transported to University of CA Davis Medical Center Burn Center:

- Partial thickness >9% of body surface.
- Any electrical or any chemical burn.
- Evidence of possible inhalation injury.
- Any burn to the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum or major joints.

Estimating Burn Size (either method can be used):

Rule of Palm: The palm of the person who is burned (not fingers or wrist area) is about 1% of the body. Use the person's palm to measure the body surface area burned.

Rule of Nines:

Head and neck (21%) Arm (10% each) Chest and stomach, and back (13% front, 13% back) Buttocks and genital area (6%) Leg (13.5% each) Adult Head and neck (9%) Chest and upper back (9% each) Arm (9% each) Abdomen and lower back (9% each) Genital area (1%) Leg (18% each)

Cross Reference: PD# 8066 – Pain Management

PD# 8026 - Respiratory Distress

PD# 8020 - Respiratory Distress - Airway Management

PD# 8031 – Non-Traumatic Cardiac Arrest PD# 8032 – Traumatic Cardiac Arrest