

Dane County EMS

Monthly Newsletter
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Burns

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So far in 2018, Dane County EMS has transported more than 5,000 patients to UW Hospital. Just 23 of those patients had a chief complaint of burn injury- less than 0.5%. Because burn injuries are relatively rare, specialized burn care in the United States has been regionalized. The University of Wisconsin Burn Center is one of only 71 burn centers across the country that have been verified by the American Burn Association and the only verified center in Wisconsin. Our burn

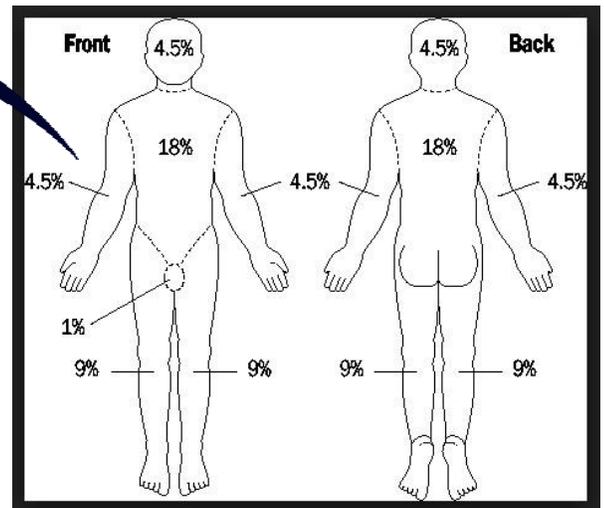
program includes inpatient care, a consult service, a procedure center and an outpatient clinic. We are honored to serve as a resource for the people of our state and the 9-state Midwestern region.

Most burns seen in hospitals across the country are smaller than 10% TBSA. However, even superficial burns can be very painful and may require pain management. Burns can have a big functional and health impact, especially if located on the hands, feet, head, neck or over joints.

Overwhelmingly, the care provided to burn patients by the Dane County EMS crews is excellent. Because this is not something you see daily, we offer a few tips and tricks below.

Remember

- Burns can be visually overwhelming and can easily distract from other injuries. Start with the ABCs, just as you do for all patients.
- Many burn patients have related traumatic injuries (from jumping to escape a fire, etc.). Consider potential injuries your patient may have.
- Burns evolve over time. It takes days to a week for a burn to fully reveal its depth and potential for healing.
- Burns are measured in Total Body Surface Area, or TBSA. The TBSA of a burn includes second degree and deeper burns. Superficial burns (those without skin loss/blistering) are not included.

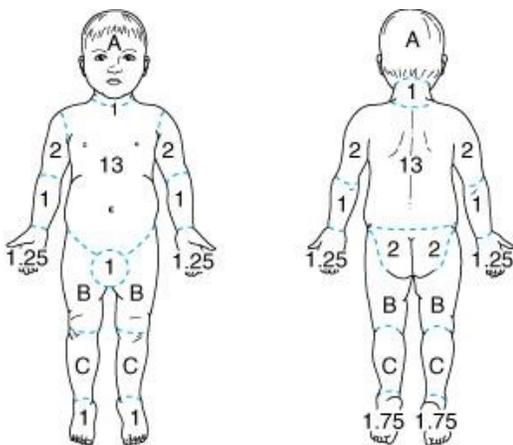


CARING FOR BURN PATIENTS

- Stop the burning (remove clothing or jewelry from site, rinse chemicals until burning feeling stops, etc.). Use cool water to rinse burns and, please never use ice (this can reduce blood flow and deepen a burn).
- Investigate likelihood of inhalation injury and monitor closely. The patients at highest risk for airway injury are those that are injured in an enclosed space. Most outdoor injuries are very unlikely to cause inhalation injury.
- Treat the patient's pain- even if you don't have access to medication, there are things you can do. First--
 - Cover the burn with a simple cover—nothing fancy. Plastic wrap or the blue side of a Chux works well. This often helps with the pain by sealing off the nerve endings in the wound and it keeps the wound clean. Utilize the inside of the plastic wrap (most clean side).
 - Ointments, topical agents are not effective until the wound has been cleaned and debrided. No need to apply Silvadene, Bacitracin or other treatments.
 - Patients with large burns (estimated TBSA >20%) will lose fluid quickly due to swelling, inflammation and skin loss. Start two large bore IVs and give LR at the following rates: ages 0-5 125mL/h, ages 6-13 250mL/h, ages 14 and up 500mL/h.

(Note: We prefer Lactated Ringers as the IV fluid of choice, as it best matches the fluids being lost. If you do not stock LR, go ahead and hang NS. We will swap it out at a later time)

The UW Burn program is available to you as a resource at any time. If there are materials, educational programs, or other supports that you'd find useful, please contact Andrea Wipperfurth, Burn Program Manager, at awipperfurth@uwhealth.org or 608-334-6720. Thank you for your excellent work within our communities.



Area	Age 0	Age 1	Age 5	Age 10	Age 15
A= ½ of Head	9 ½	8 ½	6 ½	5 ½	4 ½
B= ½ of Thigh	2 ¾	3 ¼	4	4 ¼	4 ½
C= ½ of Leg	2 ½	2 ½	2 ¾	3	3 ¼

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DaneCountyEMS



Critical Incident Stress Training

Monday, September 24th
at Deer-Grove EMS -

Cottage Grove Station

Register by email:

dcems@countyofdane.com

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

This training will be provided by Randy Krantz, MS, LCSW, LPC Counselor & Consultant.

Randy has been providing Critical Incident Stress Debriefing to providers in Dane County for over 3 years and has been working in this field for over 22 years. He will focus the training on Critical events and Crisis response, reactions to trauma, personal factors and our response, Psychological First Aid, self-care and enhancing personal resiliency.

1 hour of continuing education credits will be distributed.

