

POLICY: 554.81
TITLE: Burns

EFFECTIVE: 02/01/2026DRAFT
REVIEW: 02/2028DRAFT
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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BURNS

I. AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

II. PURPOSE

To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMT-s and Paramedics within their scope of practice.

III. PROTOCOL

Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR E = EMT O = EMT Local Optional SOP
P = Paramedic A=Advanced EMT D = Base Hospital Physician Order
Required

USE TRAUMA TRANSPORT CRITERIA

	F	E	O	<u>A</u>	P	D
SCENE SAFETY: move patient to a safe environment.	X	X	X	<u>X</u>	X	
ASSESSMENT	X	X	X	<u>X</u>	X	
STOP BURNING PROCESS:						
• CHEMICAL BURN - brush off dry chemicals then apply cool running water for 20 minutes as available. Consult container label for decontamination instructions and transport label with patient.	X	X	X	<u>X</u>	X	
• THERMAL BURNS – if burn occurred less than 3 hours ago and is less than 30% TBSA, apply cool <u>runningwith</u> water for 20 minutes, as available.						
AVOID HYPOTHERMIA: cool only the burned area and keep unaffected body parts warm by covering and using heater in passenger compartment.	X	X	X	<u>X</u>	X	
PULSE OXIMETRY: apply and monitor.		X	X	<u>X</u>	X	
CAPNOGRAPHY: apply and monitor.					X	
OXYGEN: if pulse oximetry <94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion. Consider high flow O ₂ if CO exposure is suspected. If intubated, ventilate with bag-valve and 100% oxygen.	X	X	X	<u>X</u>	X	
INTUBATE: if facial or oral swelling and respiratory depression present.					X	
ECG MONITOR: lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.					X	
12-LEAD ECG: for electrical burn.					X	
VASCULAR ACCESS: <u>P - IV/IO, -AEMT - IV only.</u>				<u>X</u>	X	
FLUID RESUSCITATION: for partial & full thickness burns surface area > 9%				<u>X</u>	X	

TBSA, consider 2 large bore IVs and 500 mL fluid bolus. Repeat bolus as needed to maintain systolic BP of 100. Use/Consider warm IV fluids, unless hyperthermic.						
	F	E	O	A	P	D
DRESS BURNS:						
• Thermal Burns with >20% body surface area, cover with dry dressing and keep patient warm.	X	X	X	X	X	
• Thermal Burns with <20% body surface area, apply moist dressing.						
PAIN MANAGEMENT: Refer to 554.44 PAIN MANAGEMENT						
				X	X	

		Age in years			
<u>Burn Area</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>
Head		19	17	13	11
Neck		2	2	2	2
Anterior Trunk		13	13	13	13
Posterior Trunk		18	18	18	18
Genitalia		1	1	1	1
Upper Extremity (each)		9	9	9	9
Lower Extremity (each)		14.5	15.5	17.5	18.5
The patient's palm (hand minus fingers) is about 1% of the patient's body surface area.					

