



INJURY-FREE WORKPLACES. PROSPERING.

What is a burn?

A burn is damage to the skin and underlying tissue which can be caused by heat, chemicals or electricity. Depending on the cause and the degree of the burn, most people will recover from the burn without lasting consequences. More serious burns need immediate medical attention as they can lead to serious, life-threatening injuries. The temperature that the skin is exposed to and the length of time the skin is exposed to the heat source determines the degree of the injury. There are three types of burns: first degree burns, second degree burns and third degree burns.

First Degree Burns

Characteristics

- Minor damage to the skin
- Color – pink to red
- Skin is non-blistered
- Painful
- Skin is dry
- Generally heal in 3-5 days

Second Degree Burns

Characteristics

- Skin is moist, wet and weepy
- Blisters are present
- Color – bright pink to cherry red
- Swelling present
- Very Painful
- Generally heal in 10-21 days
- Damages two layers of the skin

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Third Degree Burns

Characteristics

- Skin may look waxy and white, charred, dark brown, raised and leathery
- Nerve damage causes a lack of pain
- Swelling
- Destroys all layers of the skin
- Small areas will take months to heal, large areas will need skin grafting
- Symptoms of shock including pale and clammy skin, weakness, a drop in alertness, and blue lips and fingernails