

Preventing Workplace Burns

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



Workplace burns are a common hazard in industries where fire, high voltage electricity, or corrosive chemicals are used. Severe burn injuries can result in a significant loss of time and money. Injury risk awareness, hazard controls, and burn-safety training can be very effective in reducing these injuries. Employers and workers must recognize potential burn hazards in the work environment, understand the different burn types,

and know how to prevent and treat them.

Burn Severity

The severity of a burn depends on the depth of the burn into the skin.

1st Degree

These are superficial burns, only affecting the outer skin layer. The burn site may be red and sore, but will be without blisters. The burn site will also be very dry and the skin may peel after a day or two. These burns generally heal within 3-5 days and usually do not require treatment by a doctor.

2nd Degree

Often called partial-thickness burns because they extend into the second layer of skin, these burns are painful and cause the skin to appear blistered, wet, and shiny. The risk of infection is a

serious concern, especially if one of the blisters pops. These burns may take 1-3 weeks to heal. The worse the blisters are, the longer the recovery period.



3rd Degree

The most severe burns are called 3rd degree burns, or full-thickness burns, because all the skin layers are damaged. Even the underlying muscles, tendons, and bones may be impacted if the burn is severe enough. The burn site may be white, yellow, brown, or black in color and may appear to be charred and dry. These burns are often painless because the nerve endings are damaged. Skin grafts are typically needed for recovery and permanent scarring is common.



Types of Workplace Burns

Thermal / Heat

These burns are caused by exposure to steam, flames, and hot liquids/substances. The use of personal protective equipment and fire detection and protection procedures can often help in preventing thermal burns.

First-Aid

- Move to safety and smother or douse the flames.
- 1st Degree Burns: Apply cool water to the burn site, take a pain reliever, and elevate the burn to reduce swelling.
- 2nd Degree Burns: Take a pain reliever, apply burn cream, and elevate the burn site. Do not apply water.
- 3rd Degree Burns: **Seek immediate medical assistance.** Until medical treatment is available, cover the burn with sterile, non-stick dressing, and treat the person for shock.

Electrical

An electrical burn occurs when an electric current passes through a person's body and results in injury to body tissue or organs. To work safely with electricity, high-voltage areas and machinery must always be clearly marked, live wires must be identified, and contact with water must be avoided. Workers must also wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.



First-Aid

- Turn off the power source before approaching the injured person.
- Check their airway, breathing, and circulation.
- Treat for shock.
- Seek immediate medical assistance.

Chemical / Caustic



Strong acids or alkaloids, corrosive, or caustic substances may cause chemical burns to eyes, skin, and deeper tissues. These accidents can occur in the workplace after exposure to industrial cleaners or chemicals. Pain and redness from a chemical burn may develop within hours of exposure.

First-Aid

- Remove contaminated clothing.
- Flush the area with water for at least 20 minutes. If the chemical is in the eye, flush thoroughly with clean water from a low-pressure water source.
- Cover with sterile, non-stick dressing and seek medical assistance immediately.

Planning and Prevention

Planning for Burn Hazards

- Identify potential thermal, electrical, and chemical burn dangers throughout the workplace.
- Make sure each worker knows the location of first-aid kits, eye wash stations, and suppression equipment, and how to use them all.
- Ensure that workers performing electrical work follow lock-out/tag-out procedures and wear the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE).
- Employees handling chemicals must receive training on the chemical labels, safety data sheets (SDS) and hazard communication protocols.



Burn Prevention

- Keep sparks and open flames away from combustible and flammable materials.
- Store and handle chemicals appropriately.
- Store combustible and flammable items properly and away from ignition sources.
- Avoid reaching over or through hot surfaces, pipes, or chemicals.
- Mark overhead powerlines and train equipment operators as to their location.
- Always use appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Ensure hot equipment and surfaces have warning signs or stickers nearby.
- Train workers on the proper techniques for handling hot items.
- Properly maintain workplace fire extinguishers to ensure they are kept in working order.

Worker Training

It is recommended that employers educate their workers about burn hazards in the work environment, the different burn types, and ways to prevent burns.

- Identify and review any potential burn hazards in the workplace.
- Review the three categories of workplace burns and first-aid measures.
- Train workers on workplace burn prevention measures that are appropriate to the work and the environment.



Preventing Workplace Burns

Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
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(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees Not Present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to Improve Workplace Safety and Health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
