



# BURN INJURY



## Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

---

Burns can be caused by thermal, chemical, and electrical sources.

If an electrical burn is suspected, also see [Electrical Emergencies](#).

Remember that burn patients are volume depleted. However, burns do not bleed; therefore, look for other sources of bleeding.

Many burn injuries are associated with inhalation injury. The signs and symptoms of inhalation injury include: nasal and oropharyngeal burns, charring of the tongue or teeth, sooty (blackened), sputum, singed nasal and facial hair, abnormal breath sounds (e.g. stridor, rhonchi, wheezing, etc.), and respiratory distress. In cases of inhalation injury, attention should be given to the patency of the airway. Acute swelling can cause an airway obstruction. The Paramedic should consider the need for early intubation to avoid a complete airway obstruction that requires a cricothyroidotomy.

### Supportive Care

1. [Trauma Supportive Care Protocol](#).
2. Stop the burning process:

**Thermal Burns:** Lavage the burned area with tepid water (sterile, if possible) to cool skin. Do not attempt to wipe off semisolids (grease, tar, wax, etc.).

**Dry Chemical Burns:** Brush off dry powder, then lavage with copious amounts of tepid water (sterile, if possible) for 15 minutes.

**Liquid Chemical Burns:** Lavage the burned area with copious amounts of tepid water (sterile, if possible) for 15 minutes.

3. Remove clothing from around burned area, but do not remove/peel off skin or tissue.
4. Remove and secure all jewelry and tight fitting clothing.
5. Assess the extent of the burn using the [Rule of Nines](#) and the degree of [burn](#)



Approved: 10/01/2011  
Version: 3.1

Page 1 of 3

Approved by:

  
Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



# BURN INJURY



## Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

---

[severity.](#)

6. Cover burned areas with dry sterile dressings. If there is less than 20% 2nd degree and 5% 3rd degree burns, apply wet sterile dressings to burned areas for 15 minutes to aid in pain control.

### ALS Level 1

7. [Pain Management Protocol.](#)

### ALS Level 2 (*Physician Authorization Required*)

None



Approved: 10/01/2011  
Version: 3.1

Page 2 of 3

Approved by:

  
Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



# BURN INJURY



## Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

### Burn Classification

### Characteristics

Minor burn injury

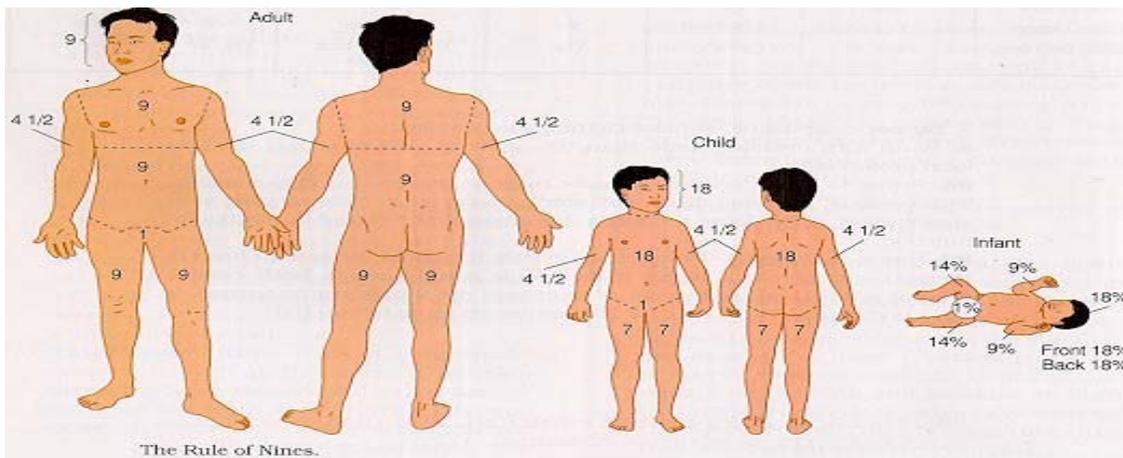
1° burn  
2° burn < 15% BSA in adults  
2° burn < 5% BSA in children/aged  
3° burn < 2% BSA

Moderate burn injury

2° burn 16-25% BSA in adults  
2° burn 5-20% BSA in children/aged  
3° burn 2-10% BSA

Major burn injury

2° burn > 25% BSA in adults  
2° burn > 20% BSA in children/aged  
3° burn > 10% BSA  
Burns involving the hands, face, eyes, ears, feet, or perineum  
Most patient with inhalation injury, electrical injury, concomitant major trauma, or significant pre-existing diseases



Approved: 10/01/2011  
Version: 3.1

Page 3 of 3

Approved by:

  
Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director