

About Your Ambulance Call

09/09

Your MedStar ambulance crew is providing this brochure because we are concerned about your health and safety. Please review this guide for information and advice regarding your condition or injury.

The assessment and treatment given to you may not provide all of the medical care required for your condition. Additional treatment at a hospital or by a doctor may be necessary to ensure your health and recovery. Get needed medical attention as soon as possible.

The advice and instructions contained in this brochure are not a substitute for definitive and comprehensive treatment. When needed, we encourage you to seek additional help by contacting your doctor or medical facility, going to the emergency room or contacting the ambulance again by calling 9-1-1.

If appropriate, inform your doctor that MedStar was called and provide the information the ambulance crew recorded on this brochure.

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Notes by crew:

Burns



Managing Care After Injury or Illness



Burns

*A burn injury can be caused by **heat, radiation, excessive cold, or exposure to strong chemicals**. The severity is determined by both the depth and the size of the wound. Burns destroy layers of skin and weaken the skin's resistance to infection. Protect the damaged area and watch for signs of a developing infection. Infections may increase chances for scarring.*

What To Watch For

- Carefully monitor the wound for signs of infection including increased pain, swelling or redness, yellow pus or foul-smelling drainage, red streaks coming from the wound, or a fever over 100.4°F.
- Severe burns (3rd degree) and burns associated with swelling to an extremity that can interfere with normal function and use, must be evaluated and treated at a medical facility.

Consider These Actions

- Keep the burn area clean and apply a sterile dressing. Change your dressing at least two times a day. Always wash your hands before touching or changing your dressing.
- Do not break blisters. If a blister breaks on its own, thoroughly wash the area twice a day, pat dry, and apply antibiotic ointment before covering again with a sterile dressing.

- Serious or extensive burns need to be evaluated and treated at a clinic or hospital. If your area has a specialty burn center, you can go there directly to receive care.
- Burns to the face, hands, feet, or genitalia should be evaluated at a clinic or hospital and closely followed to avoid scarring and maintain function.
- Sunburn, if minor and not blistered, can be treated with cool compresses or creams and ointments designed to moisturize the skin and/or decrease the pain. It will usually heal within a few days and may involve peeling of the damaged skin. More serious sunburns that involve blistering are best treated by a physician or at a burn center to prevent infection.
- **Scald wounds, such as from hot liquids, are difficult to determine the severity.** If the skin peels off following a scald injury, the damage may be deep and needs to be evaluated by a doctor.
- Contact your doctor or seek other medical help if symptoms worsen, infection develops, or the wound does not show signs of healing within a few days.
- **If needed, seek additional help by contacting your doctor or medical facility, going to the hospital emergency room or contact the ambulance again by calling 9-1-1.**