

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ Location _____ Job No. _____
Meeting Leader _____ Title _____
Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____
Subject of Meeting _____ **RESPONDING TO VICTIMS**

ASSISTING THE VICTIM

When attempting to assist fire victims, never place yourself in danger. Never turn your back on a fire. Stay up-wind from the fire to avoid flames, smoke and hazardous chemical fumes, if you cannot safely approach the victims wait for the fire department and emergency medical services to arrive. They have the proper training, equipment and resources to safely assist the victims.

If you catch on fire, try not to panic. Do not run. STOP where you are. DROP to the ground. ROLL smothering the fire. Coworkers who are on fire should be told to STOP, DROP and ROLL. Fire blankets can be used to extinguish the flames.

TREATING VICTIMS FOR SHOCK

The body will go into shock as it attempts to recover from a severe injury. Shock is the failure of the cardiovascular system to send enough blood to vital organs such as the heart, lungs and brain. Treat victims to prevent shock. Once it reaches a certain level the victim cannot be saved.

Symptoms: Shock has many different and confusing symptoms that may include confused behavior, enlarged pupils, a fast pulse, a slow pulse, fast breathing, slow breathing, trembling or weakness in arms and legs, cool moist skin, pale or bluish skin, lips and fingernails.

First Aid: Victims should lie down to improve circulation. Maintain the person's body temperature. The victim should not be too warm or chilled. To keep the victims warm, put blankets underneath as well as around the body. To cool victims provide shade and loosen tight clothing. Do not move the victims unless they are in immediate danger. If the victim must be moved do not bend or twist the body.

Position the victim depends on the injuries. Extreme care should be used if you suspect head, neck or back injuries. Keep the victim lying flat if you suspect these injuries.

If the victim does not have neck, back, or head injuries place the victim on their back and elevate the legs 8-12 inches using available materials such as blankets, boxes and clothing. This will help improve circulation. Do not elevate the legs if you suspect leg fractures.

If the victim vomits place them on their side to prevent fluids from blocking the airway. If the victim is having difficulty breathing place them in a semi-reclining position. Raise the head and neck with available materials such as blankets, boxes and clothing. This may help them breathe easier.

What should you do if you catch on fire?
STOP, DROP and ROLL smothering the flames.

TREATING HEAT BURNS

Burns can be caused by electricity, chemicals, radiation and heat. Fire will result in "heat burns" to the skin. The severity of the burn depends on the depth, size and location of the burn. Burns are classified by their depth. The depth of the burn is measured in degree. The deeper the burn the higher the degree and the more serious the injury. Burns to the hands, feet, genitals, face and neck are the most serious. Burns which affect a large part of the body are as serious as these specific areas.

FIRST DEGREE BURNS

First degree burns are the least serious type of burn. Ordinary sun burn is an example of a first degree burn.

Symptoms: A first degree burn can be recognized by a redness or discolorization of the skin. There is usually mild swelling and although this is the least serious type of burn they can be very painful.

First Aid: Flush with large quantities of cool running water. Apply moist dressings and bandage loosely.

SECOND DEGREE BURN

Second degree burns are deeper than first degree burns and are more serious. They are the most painful burns because in most cases the nerve endings are not destroyed although tissue damage is severe.

Symptoms: Blisters are present. The skin is red or mottled (spotted) and may appear to look wet. First aid depends on the condition of the burn.

First Aid for Burns with NO Open Blisters: Apply dry dressings. Bandage loosely. Do not use water as it increases the risk of shock. Treat the victim for shock.

THIRD DEGREE BURN

Third degree burns are the deepest and most severe burns. The victim may complain of extreme pain. If the nerve endings are damaged, he or she may feel very little pain. All skin layers are affected. Damage can extend beyond the skin into the structure below.

Symptoms: These burns may appear white or charred. Some third degree burns look like second degree burns. It is sometimes difficult to tell how deep the burn is.

First Aid: Apply dry dressings. Bandage loosely. Do not use water as it increases the risk of shock. Treat the victim for shock.