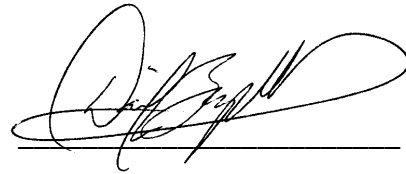


EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

PREHOSPITAL PROTOCOLS

Effective: January 1, 2017



EMS Agency Medical Director

BLS Burns

INFORMATION NEEDED:

- Type and Source of Burn
 - Chemical, electrical, steam, smoke, open flame
- Complicating Factors
 - exposure in enclosed space, total time exposed, drugs, alcohol
- Medical History
 - cardiac disease, respiratory disease, medications
- Associated Mechanism of Injury:
 - fall through roof, explosion, motor vehicle collision

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

- Evidence of inhalation injury:
 - Smoky sputum, singed nasal hair, hoarseness
- Depth of burn:
 - Full thickness, partial thickness, surface burn
- Size of burn:
 - Calculate total body surface area (TBSA) using rule of nines
- Entrance and exits from electrical burns
- Associated trauma from explosion
 - Fall, penetrations, etc.

TREATMENT

All Patients:

1. Stop the burning process.
2. Patient's with respiratory distress- oxygen 10-15L/min via non-rebreather mask.
Patients with ineffective respirations: support with ventilations via BVM and consider airway adjunct.
3. Consider CPAP for patients with significant respiratory distress.

Thermal or Electrical Burns:

4. Cool with water for up to 5 minutes to stop the burning process. Avoid prolonged cool water usage due to risk of hypothermia and local cold injury.
5. Remove jewelry and non-adhered clothing, do not break blisters
6. Cover burn with dry sterile dressings to avoid hypothermia.

- a. If <20% TBSA cover with sterile dressing soaked with sterile water
 - b. If >20% TBSA cover with dry sterile burn sheet or cleanest dry sheet.
7. If placing patient in cervical spine precautions cover backboard with dry sterile burn sheet or cleanest sheet available.
8. Electrical burns may produce extensive damage not apparently visible from surface wounds. For this reason, all patients suffering from an electrical burn should be placed on a cardiac monitor so ALS response is necessary.

Chemical Burns

9. Follow appropriate decontamination or HAZMAT procedures.
10. Brush off dry powders, remove contaminated clothing and irrigate with copious amounts of water. (Exception: dry lime, metallic sodium or lithium).
11. Do not attempt to remove tar or other adhered material.

Note: Consider early notification of base station for destination.