

- Chemical burns
- Electric burns
- Suicide attempts
- Murder attempts



First aid and other help

First try to put out the flames. The immediate first aid for all kinds of burns is to pour plenty of cold water on the affected part, except on acid burns. This helps to reduce damage by absorbing heat from the skin. It also reduces pain to some extent. Water also helps by separating burning clothes from the skin.

Many people wrongly believe that water causes blisters on the skin and instead they wrap the victim in blankets. This puts the fire off after some seconds, but does not

absorb the heat. Water is far more effective than a blanket because it cools instantly.

If you are using water-soaked folds of clothes, place them on the burnt part and change them every three minutes. Help the victim to drink as much water as possible. This helps to overcome the shock caused by fluid loss from the body. Cover the burns with a clean cloth to protect from dust, flies, etc. Unless the burns are minor, all burn cases must be referred to hospitals. Facial burns and burn in hands should be referred.

You may have to treat small burns at home. Treat it like any other wound. Herbal applications like neem oil, coconut oil, aloe or raw papaya dressings are good.

Prevention of burns

Prevention is better than cure. Think and start from your own home. Synthetic clothes catch fire quite quickly. They stick to the skin more