

## Burn etiologies

Etiology	Examples	Presentation	Immediate priorities at scene
Thermal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flash/Flame</li> <li>• Scald</li> <li>• Contact</li> <li>• Electrical (non-conductive)</li> </ul>	House fire; water heater temperature too high [ $>120^{\circ}\text{F}$ ( $48.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ )], campfire, fireworks, motor vehicle accident, hot liquids from microwave, grease fire on a stove, space heaters	First, second, third, and fourth degree burns  Usually visible (see Figures 1-4).	ABCDE approach  Cover wound with clean, dry cloth  Keep patient warm  Consider burn center referral (see <i>Burn center referral criteria</i> )
Chemical	Industrial accidents or prolonged inadvertent exposure to caustic agents such as bleach or drain cleaners	First, second, third, and fourth degree burns  May or may not be visible initially, depending on the agent	ABCDE approach  Irrigation of affected areas with copious amounts of water  Keep patient warm  Burn center referral indicated
Electrical (conductive)	Lightning, contact with faulty wiring, occupational exposures, contact with car battery and metal	There may be no visible cutaneous involvement, but deep tissue damage is common	ABCDE approach  Lack of visible cutaneous involvement with high incidence of compartment syndrome  Elevate affected extremities  Burn center referral indicated