



Northwest Wisconsin  
**Healthcare Emergency  
Readiness Coalition**

**Northwest Wisconsin HERC Burn Surge Annex**

Guidelines for the Care and Stabilization of Burn Patients for 72  
Hours Until Transfer to a Burn Center following a Burn Mass  
Casualty Incident

## Record of Revisions and Maintenance

This plan annex will be maintained by the NWWIHERC Coordinator in collaboration with the NWWIHERC Board of Directors. Changes will reflect revisions in the State of Wisconsin Burn Mass Casualty Incident (BMCI) Surge Plan and lessons learned from exercises or real experiences.

### *Record of Changes*

Date	Record of Changes	Name, Office
June 4, 2021	Initial NWWIHERC Burn Surge Annex approved.	NWWIHERC Board of Directors
January 4, 2021	Updates made to align with additions to State Burn MCI Plan	Aimee Wollman Nesseth, HERC Coordinator
February 4, 2022	Board approves changes to annex.	

### *Record of Training/Exercises*

Date	Activity	Allocations
Fall 2021	ABLS Seats	
Spring 2022	ABLS Seats	
April 8, 2022	Facilitated Discussion/TTX	Held during second hour of the NWWIHERC Membership Meeting.

## Table of Contents

1. Definitions.....	4
2. Introduction .....	5
2.1 Purpose .....	5
2.2 Scope .....	5
2.3 Background .....	5
2.4 Planning Assumptions .....	5
3. Concept of Operations .....	7
3.1 Management of the Burn Incident by EMS and the Local Hospital .....	7
3.2 Activation of the Regional Annex and State BMCI Plan.....	7
3.3 Activation of the State BMCI Plan .....	8
3.4 Communication Mechanisms.....	9
3.5 Transfer Agreements .....	9
3.6 Deactivation and Recovery .....	9
4. HERC Roles and Responsibilities .....	9
5. Burn Training and Resources .....	10
6. Special Considerations .....	11
7. Tracking and Reunification.....	13
Appendix A: Additional Resources .....	14
Appendix B: Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Training .....	15
Appendix C: American Burn Association Burn Center Referral Criteria .....	16
Appendix D: Consensus Guidelines for the Initial Management of Burns by EMS .....	17
Appendix E: Consensus Guidelines for the Initial Management of Burns by Hospitals .....	21
Appendix F: Summary of Treatment Algorithm for Burn Victims.....	25
Appendix: G: Initial Burn Assessment and Treatment guidelines .....	27

## 1. Definitions

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1. Local Hospital is defined as the hospital (with any level trauma center) closest to the incident. This hospital will receive patients directly from the incident scene and will stabilize prior to transfer to a Burn Surge Facility or Burn Center.
2. Primary Receiving Burn Centers within Wisconsin are UW Health in Madison and Columbia St. Mary's in Milwaukee. These facilities support and coordinate the triage and transfer of patients at the incident scene and local hospital *when normal referral patterns are exhausted*. The facility that handles the incident is determined either by the Local Hospital based upon their transfer preferences. The [State BMCI Plan](#) is activated by the Primary Receiving Burn Center if they are unable to receive all burn patients from the scene/local hospital.
3. Burn Centers are final transfer locations of burn patients. The [State BMCI plan](#) outlines all regional burn centers, including those listed below:
  - a. University of Wisconsin Hospital, Madison, WI
  - b. Columbia/St. Mary's Hospital, Milwaukee, WI
  - c. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
  - d. Hennepin Healthcare Burn Center, Minneapolis, MN
  - e. Regions Hospital, St. Paul, MN
  - f. Loyola University Medical Center, Chicago, IL
  - g. University of Chicago Burn Center, Chicago, IL
  - h. University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
  - i. University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI
4. Burn Incident is any incident that involves:
  - Burn victims with severity of burns that cannot be managed by local hospital resources and/or
  - The number of burn victims is such that this number of burn victims cannot be managed by transfer to the Burn Center(s).

**Note:** *EMS should be familiar with local hospital resources and should be able to identify a burn incident, based on its knowledge of local hospital resources to manage a Burn Incident.*
5. Burn Surge Facilities is the name for a group of hospitals identified by the [State Burn MCI Plan](#) as the hospitals initially contacted by the Primary Receiving Burn Center to care for burn patients until they can be transferred to a Burn Center.

## **2. Introduction**

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### **2.1 Purpose**

The Northwest Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) provides these guidelines to the region for the response to a burn mass casualty incident (BMCI). This annex includes resources for first responders, local hospitals, and burn surge facilities. This annex has been developed to support healthcare agencies and facilities and increase the burn capabilities of the region and the state. Actions described here are intended to support, not replace, any existing facility or agency policy or plan.

### **2.2 Scope**

This annex provides support and guidance to supplement the HERC regional emergency response plans. Specifically, it is designed to address communications and resources available to regional partners during the activation of the state burn MCI plan. This annex also works to address relevant capabilities listed in the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health and Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grants, of which are listed in the state plan.

### **2.3 Background**

The unique needs of burn patients and limited burn resources mandate specialized and appropriate planning for response to a burn mass casualty incident (BMCI). A BMCI is defined by the American Burn Association (ABA) as any catastrophic event in which the number of burn victims exceeds the capacity of the local burn center to provide optimal burn care. There are local risks across every region that could contribute to a burn-specific mass casualty event; including, but not limited to: pipelines, industrial zones, terrorist events, transportation accidents, and laboratory accidents.

The ability for a hospital facility to care for a burn patient depends on the capacity and capability which includes the availability of burn beds, burn surgeons, burn nurses, other support staff, operating rooms, equipment, supplies, and related sources. The activation of the state burn MCI plan depends on the capacity and capability of the primary receiving burn center (UW Health as the State Burn Coordinating Center or Columbia St. Mary's as the Lead Burn Surge Facility) at the time of the incident.

### **2.4 Planning Assumptions**

The assumptions granted for this annex are as follows:

- In the State of Wisconsin, a BMCI is an incident that overwhelms the primary receiving burn centers. The ability for the primary receiving burn center to take burn patients depends on the capacity and capability of the facility at the time of the incident.
- If resources within the region's normal referral patterns are exhausted, UW Health and Columbia St. Mary's, as the primary receiving burn centers, will serve as primary receiving facilities for their respective areas and will assist in the triage and coordination of patient transport as needed.
- Response to a burn event will begin with local EMS and will expand out as necessary with the help of the primary receiving burn center. Hospitals with Level III and IV trauma centers should be capable of stabilizing burn patients until the primary receiving burn

center can determine transfer needs. However, one or two patients with severe burns may overwhelm the resources of these hospitals.

- Burn victims, as other patients, prefer to be treated locally. Local EMS and hospitals will communicate with their preferred primary receiving burn center (based on their normal transfer procedures) to coordinate patient transfer. This may include utilizing out-of-state hospitals for regions located closer to Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois rather than the Wisconsin primary receiving burn centers. **For burn patients in the HERC, the normal transfer procedures include transfer to the nationally verified Burn Centers of Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN, and Hennepin Healthcare Burn Center, Minneapolis, MN, or Essentia Health, St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth, MN.\***
- UW Health and Columbia St. Mary's will determine the need to initiate the activation of the [State BMCI Plan](#). The activation of the BMCI Plan may happen without warning and could require the immediate re-allocation of hospital resources in the area where the initial event has occurred.
- In a BMCI, local partners (for example, HERCs or hospitals) within the state may activate their hospital plans and/or coalition plans to support patient treatment, transfer, and tracking.
- Hospitals with Level I and II trauma centers have the resources to stabilize and treat burn patients and will serve—voluntarily—as Burn Surge Facilities (BSFs). During a large-scale BMCI, BSFs throughout the State of Wisconsin may be called upon to provide burn care for up to five critical burn patients for 48-72 hours or less until the patient(s) can be transferred to a burn center.
- Federal resources from the Strategic National Stockpile or its managed inventory assets may be used to support the primary receiving burn center and other hospitals. Resources will take at least 12 hours to arrive once the Governor's request has been submitted to and approved by the federal government.
- National burn bed capacity is limited and coordination of patient transfers (destination and logistics) may take days to achieve when out-of-state capacity is required.
- American Burn Association (ABA) regional plans will be followed and the primary receiving burn center will contact the lead facility in Midwest Regional Interstate Response in the event of a BMCI that exceeds state capacity (See Appendix B for more contact information and links to inter-state regional plans).

\*Essentia Health, St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth, MN, is not a nationally verified Burn Center by the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons, but works in collaboration with Hennepin Health Burn Center.

### 3. Concept of Operations

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#### 3.1 Management of the Burn Incident by EMS and the Local Hospital

1. The first agency on scene (EMS, fire, law enforcement) establishes Incident Command upon arrival at the burn incident. Based on the nature and scale of the incident and the number of victims involved, the Incident Commander may request the activation of the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
  - a. Command shall notify the primary receiving hospital(s) that a burn incident has occurred, give an estimate number of patients involved and request the bed capacity of the hospital(s) to receive triaged patients.
2. EMS shall follow the State of Wisconsin Trauma Field Triage Guidelines for destination determination. EMS should triage the burn victims by the triage colors of red, yellow, green, and black, according to standard triage procedures.
3. The on-scene Incident Commander or designee (Transport Officer) shall determine the transportation needs and destination of patients based on patient acuity and the hospital bed capacities reported by the receiving hospitals. Command will request additional transportation resources as needed.
4. If the receiving hospital's capacity is overwhelmed, an EMResource alert is sent to all potential receiving hospitals by the hospital or HERC coordinator for additional facilities to report real-time bed capacity.
5. If the local hospital decides that they can manage the incident, then no further hospitals, other than the primary receiving burn center, need to be involved. The local hospital will activate, as necessary, its Emergency Operations Plan and Incident Command System, stabilize the burn victim(s), contact the appropriate Burn Center and then follow the instructions of the Burn Center for which patients should be transferred. Regional EMResource alerts may be sent out for the BMCI event.

#### 3.2 Activation of the Regional Annex and State BMCI Plan

In the HERC, if the resources within the normal referral patterns to Regions Hospital in St. Paul or the Hennepin Healthcare Burn Center in Minneapolis are exhausted, the local hospital will contact the primary receiving burn centers of Wisconsin for [State BMCI](#) Plan activation consideration.

The HERC BMCI annex may be activated prior to or in reaction to the activation of the state plan. The activation of this annex is determined by the HERC Coordinator when reviewing the regional capabilities in either response to a local incident or due to the activation of a BSF for an incident in another region.

The [State BMCI plan](#) is activated when a burn incident overwhelms the capacity or capabilities of the primary receiving burn center (e.g., staff, bed availability, etc.) Each primary receiving burn center is responsible for identifying and outlining their resources and capabilities.

### 3.3 Activation of the State BMCI Plan

#### Prior to State Plan Activation

- All burn patients will be transferred to the closest appropriate trauma center following normal referral patterns.
- The receiving emergency department will contact the primary receiving burn center to coordinate triage and transportation needs.
- EMS and hospital facilities will follow normal transport preferences and procedures. If these resources are exhausted, then a decision will be made to call either UW Health or Columbia St. Mary's
  - **Columbia St. Mary's Access Center: 414-585-6683 or 414-272-2876**
  - **UW Health Access Center: 800-472-0111 or 608-263-3260**
- The UW and Columbia St. Mary's Access Centers will follow internal procedures to contact the attending on-call burn surgeon for triage and transport support (See [State BMCI plan](#) for more information).
- If the Primary Receiving Burn Center is unable to accept all burn patients, the burn surgeon will make the decision to initiate the state burn mass casualty plan.

#### Upon the Activation of the State BMCI Plans

The notification process of the [State BMCI plan](#) starts upon the activation of the plan from the primary receiving burn center:

The notification process includes:

- The primary receiving burn center sends an EMResource Alert to relevant partners (e.g., BSFs, OPEHC, HERC, etc.). The alert is sent to partners at the discretion of the primary receiving burn center based on who needs to be informed or involved in the response. For example, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin does not need to be alerted if there are no pediatric patients.
- The BSFs and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin respond to the EMResource Alert with the information requested by the primary receiving burn center (e.g., bed availability).
- The BSFs chosen to support the response receive information from the primary receiving burn center regarding incoming patients.
- If the incident exceeds state resources, the primary receiving burn center contacts the Midwest Burn Region to coordinate the transfer of burn patients to out-of-state facilities ([See State BMCI Plan](#)).

### 3.4 Communication Mechanisms

There are several communication methods used in the notification process of this plan:

- Phone: Communication to primary receiving burn center from EMS agency, dispatch center, hospital, or HERC.
- WISCOM radio: Communication between facilities
- Additional radio channels: EMS use on a local/regional basis
- EMResource: Alert drafted by the primary receiving burn center to alert healthcare facilities of a BMCI incident. This is used to understand the real-time capacity of hospitals. Any member of EMResource has the ability to register an event and alerts can be sent to specific facilities, partners in a region, or all state partners.

### 3.5 Transfer Agreements

The [State BMCI plan](#) describes in detail the transfer understanding and agreement that local EMS and hospitals will call either the primary receiving burn center when normal transfer protocols have been exhausted, and there are >2 burn patients for awareness and assistance in the triage and transport of burn patients.

### 3.6 Deactivation and Recovery

The deactivation of the [State BMCI plan](#) occurs when all burn patients have either been discharged from the BSF or transferred to a burn center. There may be continued information sharing and resource needs following the deactivation of the state plan.

Upon notification of the end of the incident from the primary receiving burn center, the HERC will cease its support operations in sharing information and resource coordination. At the request of membership or a decision of leadership, the HERC may choose to facilitate or support an after-action process to identify areas of strength or improvement.

The deactivation of the regional annex is up to the discretion of the HERC coordinator in collaboration with the Regional Level Two Trauma Center when regional support is no longer required.

## 4. HERC Roles and Responsibilities

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### Preparedness

- Provide and support regional training and exercises related to Burn Care and the BMCI
- Communicate with the Burn Surge Facilities to verify their involvement in the BMCI plan and discuss resource needs
- Provide resources to support the creation of local burn plans (EMS, local public health, hospitals, etc.). Appendixes A through F provides information to inform guidance and planning. The state burn plan may also serve as a planning resource.
- Relay information from BSFs to OPEHC to update statewide plans.

## Response

- Provide support consistent with the HERC response plan role during any large-scale event: predominantly information sharing amongst membership, facilitation of resource support if any is available, and as a liaison to state and federal resources, if needed.
- For example, the HERC will work with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Emergency Management as needed to determine available local, state, and interstate resources. This includes access to subject matter experts at the local, state, and national level.
- When the HERC is notified of a burn event, the member organization experiencing the surge (EMS, local hospital, or BSF) may notify the HERC of any needs or requests. The HERC will then determine if such needs should be conveyed to the membership through information sharing channels (e.g., EM Resource, eICS, etc.) or conveyed to state partners for a wider dissemination.

## Recovery

- Continue to support information sharing and resource request needs
- Support mental health needs of first responders and other regional partners involved in the response
- Provide or participate in after-action reviews of the incident and response

## 5. Burn Training and Resources

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### 5.1 EMS and First Responders

EMS should have plans for the management of Mass Casualty Incidents. EMS are encouraged to use the [Wisconsin EMS Mass Casualty Incident Response Planning Guide](#) to guide their Mass Casualty Incident Response Plan.

The Burn Centers have approved guidelines for EMS regarding the initial management and transport of patients with burns.

- EMS Medical Directors are encouraged to use these “Guidelines” and include them in their operational protocols.
- These “Guidelines” should be incorporated in the protocol books that are carried on each ambulance.
- EMS should carry the supplies on their ambulance as recommended by the “Guidelines.”

Paramedics and Advanced EMTs may take advantage of the Advanced Burn Life Support course, [ABLS Now](#)©.

The HERC will partner with Regions Hospital and Hennepin Healthcare Burn Center to offer educational opportunities within the region as they become available.

UW Health offers quarterly courses on the initial management of burn incidents with a focus on pre-hospital EMS operations and preliminary ED activities. The information in the course is

based off of and follows ABLS guidelines. These courses will be expanded and supported by Columbia St. Mary's and Children's Hospital to provide additional availability and pre-recorded classes (See [State BMCI Plan](#) for additional information).

## 5.2 Hospitals

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has funding for training available for hospital personnel. DHS works in conjunction with American Burn Association (ABA) to purchase training seats via grant funds. The following individuals are recommended to take an ABLS course offered by ABA:

1. Nurses: There should be 24-hour nursing care for any burn patient at the Burn Surge Facilities. Nurses should have successfully completed ABLS Now© from the American Burn Association. Multiple nurses should receive this training, so at least one ABLS trained nurse is available on each shift. It is recommended that Local Hospitals participate in ABLS training to support their emergency operations.
2. Physicians: There should be 24/7 physician consultation available at the Burn Surge Facilities. Physicians should have ABLS Now© from the American Burn Association. It is recommended that at least one Emergency Department physician and one General Surgeon receive this training. It is recommended that Local Hospitals participate in ABLS training to support their emergency operations.

Other staff that care for burn patients may also take advantage of the ABLS Now© (for example, respiratory therapists) at the discretion of the hospital.

Columbia St. Mary's and UW Health provide live ABLS courses. Course information can be accessed on the American Burn Associate website (see Appendix C for link).

Columbia St. Mary's provides onsite burn-related education for hospitals. Scheduling for this service can be requested through the burn center contact listed in Appendix B.

## 6. Special Considerations

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### Behavioral Health and Access and Functional Needs

- The HERC has Critical Incident Stress Management Teams (CISM) available to provide education, defusing, and debriefing support to first responders and public safety personnel following a BMCI event. Contact information for the CISM resources within the region are listed below.
  - Douglas County: Arrowhead CISM team. For services call: 218-625-3581
  - Bayfield, Ashland Counties: Chequamegon CISM team:  
For services call: 715-373-6120
  - Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, portions of Barron:

- Chippewa Valley Emergency Support Service. Call 715-834-6868
- Burnett and Washburn Counties: Call 715-259-7713
- Polk County: Call 715-268-8698
- Patients with behavioral health and/or access and functional needs are supported by resources of EMS and hospitals as needed. EMS agencies and hospital facilities train and prepare independently to care for these patient populations.

## **Pediatric**

- EMS and hospitals within the HERC will follow established transfer protocols for pediatric burn patients.
- If resources have been exhausted within normal referral patterns, pediatric burn patients should be transferred to Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin or another certified pediatric burn center as a first choice burn center (see Appendix B for list of Pediatric facilities and contact information). However, if that is not a possibility due to a limited number of beds, the below triage criteria may be followed:
- UW Health: If transferring to a burn center is not possible, pediatric burn patients under two years of age with total body surface area (TBSA) greater than 15% and pediatric burn patients over two years of age with TBSA greater than 20% should be sent to a hospital with a pediatric intensive care unit.
- Columbia St. Mary’s: Unstable patients under 12 years of age must be sent to Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin or another pediatric burn center for care. If transferring to a pediatric burn center is not possible, stable patients under 12 years of age and unstable patients over 12 years of age may remain at Columbia St. Mary’s.
- For all other facilities, it is up to the hospital’s discretion to support pediatric patients. However, patients who are pre-pubescent and/or have significant TBSA burns, facial injuries, or inhalation injuries (intubated) should automatically be transferred to a pediatric burn facility regardless of the hospital’s capabilities.
- EMS and hospitals will follow approved and established protocols for treating pediatric patients. Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin will also provide triage and transport support when needed.

## **Combined Injury**

Combined injuries are burns paired with a traumatic, radiological, and/or chemical injury. Combined injuries significantly increase the mortality of patients and are better served at trauma and burn centers depending on the severity.

Triage done by EMS on site of the incident is conducted by traditional trauma triage guidelines. Combined injuries are considered during a secondary triage conducted by a local hospital and/or the primary receiving burn center.

### *Decontamination*

- Gross decontamination done on scene of the incident follows local plans and procedures. County-level local emergency planning committees (LEPC) provide resources such as decontamination units and protective gear.
- All hospitals will follow their internal decontamination policies and procedures.

### *Isolation Inhalation Injuries*

In burn incidents, there is a high likelihood of inhalation injuries due to smoke and fumes from the fire or explosion. It can be expected that burn patients may have inhalation injuries of carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen cyanide (CN) gasses. It is recommended that patients with inhalation injuries and concurrent traumatic or burn injuries be treated by a designated burn center. However, patients with isolated and confirmed CO or CN exposures are qualified to use the hyperbaric chamber. The decision to transfer patients to a facility for hyperbaric chamber use will be determined during the triage conducted by the primary receiving burn facility.

There is one hyperbaric chamber Aurora St. Luke's in Milwaukee with 24/7 capabilities to care for sick and intubated patients with traumatic injuries (see Appendix B for contact information).

Trauma centers (local hospitals or BSFs) should consider having a supply of cyanokits to stabilize and support patients with inhalation injuries.

## **7. Tracking and Reunification**

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Tracking and reunification efforts are conducted by EMS, hospitals, and local officials. These efforts, in regards to this plan, are most applicable to low- or no-notice incidents.

Wisconsin Admin. Code ch. DHS 110 requires EMS agencies to have a mass casualty plan that includes a mechanism for patient tracking. The EMTrack platform is recommended for use, however, agencies may use any alternative means of tracking that includes real time situational awareness in order to assist other partners who are involved in reunification efforts.

EMTrack may be used by EMS, hospitals, and local officials for patient tracking. Patient information is entered into the system by providers and allows for approved administrators to track where patients are located during planned or unplanned events. A link to a full EMTrack description can be found in Appendix 3 Additional Resources.

Reunification can be conducted at a hospital or local reunification center. Hospitals and local and tribal health departments follow their own procedures for properly sharing patient information with loved ones.

## Appendix A: Additional Resources

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Link	Resource
<a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02587.pdf">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02587.pdf</a>	Contact information for HERC Regional Coordinators
<a href="http://ameriburn.org/education/abls-program/?_sm_au_=iVVQS1nZR6pTMqjRBLQtvK7BJGKjp">http://ameriburn.org/education/abls-program/?_sm_au_=iVVQS1nZR6pTMqjRBLQtvK7BJGKjp</a>	Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Training
<a href="http://ameriburn.org/education/">http://ameriburn.org/education/</a>	ABLS Now©
<a href="http://ameriburn.org/public-resources/burn-center-referral-criteria/">http://ameriburn.org/public-resources/burn-center-referral-criteria/</a>	American Burn Association Burn Center Referral Criteria
<a href="http://ameriburn.org/public-resources/burn-center-regional-map/?location=cincinnati">http://ameriburn.org/public-resources/burn-center-regional-map/?location=cincinnati</a>	Regional Burn Centers
<a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01098.pdf">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01098.pdf</a>	Wisconsin EMS Mass Casualty Incident Response Planning Guide

## **Appendix B: Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Training**

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Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) programs provide knowledge for immediate care of the burn patient up to the first 24-hours post injury. ABLS programs also support emergency preparedness and mass casualty incidents focusing on triage, burn survivability, prioritizing transport of patients, and patient treatment. ABLS is available for a wide range of burn care professionals.

Each hospital may designate those staff persons that are to take ABLS Now© from the American Burn Association. Recommended participants at each hospital for this training are:

- Multiple Registered Nurses so that at least one ABLS trained nurse is available per shift
- 1 Emergency Department physician
- 1 General Surgeon
- Other staff involved in the treatment of burn patients
- EMS staff associated with the hospitals
- Paramedics or Advanced-level EMTs

There is no maximum number of staff that can be trained under this funding program.

ABLS Now© is designed to provide hospital staff treating burn victims with the ability to assess and stabilize patients with serious burns during the first critical hours following injury and to identify those patients requiring transfer to a burn center. The course is not designed to teach comprehensive burn care, but rather to provide information that will enable those who only rarely treat burn patients to provide the care needed by a burn patient in the first 24 hours after injury or, in a mass casualty incident, for up to 72 hours.

The certification for ABLS is valid for a 4-year period.

***Please contact your Regional Hospital Emergency Readiness Coalition Coordinator for information about this course.***

## **Appendix C: American Burn Association Burn Center Referral Criteria**

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The following categories of burns are appropriate for referral and transfer to a Burn Center:

1. Partial thickness burns greater than 10% total body surface area (TBSA).
2. Third-degree burns in any age group.
3. Electrical burns, including lightning injury.
4. Chemical burns.
5. Inhalation injury.
6. Burn injury in a patient with pre-existing medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery or affect mortality
7. Any patients with burns and concomitant trauma (such as fractures) in which the burn injury poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality. In such cases, if the trauma poses the greater immediate risk, the patient may be initially stabilized in a trauma center before being transferred to a burn center. Physician judgment will be necessary in such situations and should be in concert with the regional medical control plan and triage protocols.
8. Burned children in hospitals without qualified personnel or equipment for the care of children.
  - a. Note: It is the recommendation of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin that pediatric burn patients, who meet the above criteria be transferred to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin or to the University of Wisconsin or to a state adult Burn Center, or if this is not possible to a hospital with a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.
9. Burn injury in patients, who will require special social, emotional, or rehabilitative intervention: burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints.

## Appendix D: Consensus Guidelines for the Initial Management of Burns by EMS

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These Consensus Guidelines is intended to be used by EMS on a daily basis (also in disaster incidents) for ALL burn patients.

### Signs & Symptoms:

1st degree burns (superficial): Reddened skin that blanches with pressure

2nd degree burns (partial thickness): Moist, red, weeping surface, intact or broken blisters, painful

3rd degree burns (full thickness): Dry, pale, dark red, white, brown or charred skin, may be painless

Airway compromise: Wheezing, dyspnea, hoarseness, stridor

Inhalation injury: Facial burns, singed nares, carbonaceous sputum, enclosed space fire, altered LOC

### Obtain History of:

PMH/Meds/Allergies

Recent illness or trauma

History of event, mechanism of injury, other trauma (falls, loss of consciousness, etc), time of injury:

- Electrical contact (AC/DC, amps, volts or lightning)
- Enclosed or open space exposure
- Type of chemical or toxic exposure
- Duration & concentration of exposure
- Presence of fire, smoke, or distinctive odors

### Notes:

1. Guidelines for children apply for children under age 12 or < 36 kg (Broselow)

- 2. TBSA = Total burn surface area • Stop the burning process (remove clothing)

### General Guidelines

- Assess ABC's (airway, breathing, circulation)
- Establish IV access
- Treat pain
- Remove jewelry or other potentially constricting items
- Look for other trauma
- Keep environment warm
- Frequent vital signs & assessment of peripheral pulses: *BP can be taken on burn extremities*
- Electrical burns: EKG monitoring, look for contact wounds
- Chemical burns: Copious irrigation with warm water. *Brush dry chemicals off prior to irrigation, certain chemicals require special considerations (e.g. hydrofluoric acid)*
- Transport patients in clean, dry sheet (or burn sheet) – no ointments

**Consider transport to nearest burn center.**

### **Airway Control/Inhalation Injury**

- Titrate > 94%
- Look for signs of inhalation injury.
  - Consider potential for inhalation injury in all victims of closed-space injury.
  - Consider potential for inhalation injury in all those who inhaled fumes or steam.
  - Carbon monoxide & cyanide are commonly present in closed-space fires.
- Consider intubation.
  - Evidence of airway compromise
  - Significant decrease in mental status
  - Circumferential partial or full thickness chest burns
  - Extensive burns or facial burns

### **Assessment of Injury**

- Lund-Browder diagram preferred (or Rule of 9's) for adults.
- Lund-Browder diagram preferred for children. (*Patient's* palm, including fingers = 1%, may also be used.)

### **Fluid Resuscitation**

#### Fluid Resuscitation

- Initial by EMS
  - 125 mL/hr  $\leq$  5 yrs. of age
  - 250 mL/hr 6-13 years of age
  - 500 mL/hr adults  $\geq$  14 years of age
- Once TBSA is calculated,
  - 2 mL/kg/%TBSA for  $\geq$  14 years of age
  - 3mL/kg/%TBSA for < 14 years of age
- Fluid should be adjusted to maintain appropriate urine output:
  - Patients < 30kg
    - 1.0mL/Kg/hr
  - Patients > 30 kg
    - 0.5mL/kg/hr
- Add glucose for those less than 10kg: D5LR or D5LR at 4mL/kg (+ 20KCL once available)
  - Do not adjust this fluid rate. Only discontinue when enteral feeding has started

#### **Pain control**

- Narcotics as needed:
- Call for ALS intercept if needed for pain control.
- Consider anti-anxiety medications in addition to pain meds.

#### **Monitoring Resuscitation**

- Adjustments to fluid rate will be dependent upon patient response.

- Foley catheter: 15% TBSA or greater
- Goal urine output:
  - Children >30 kg: 0.5mL/Kg/hr
  - Children 10-29 kg: 1.0mL/Kg/hr
  - Children <30 kg: 2.0mL/kg/hr
  - Adults: 0.5 ml/kg/hr or 30-50 ml/hr



Courtesy of the

## American Burn Association

Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS)

Learn more about the ABA and ABLS at [www.ameriburn.org](http://www.ameriburn.org)

### Burn Center Referral Criteria

A burn center may treat adults, children, or both.

Burn injuries that should be referred to a burn center include:

1. Partial thickness burns greater than 10% total body surface area (TBSA).
2. Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints.
3. Third degree burns in any age group.
4. Electrical burns, including lightning injury.
5. Chemical burns.
6. Inhalation injury.
7. Burn injury in patients with preexisting medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality.
8. Any patient with burns and concomitant trauma (such as fractures) in which the burn injury poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality. In such cases, if the trauma poses the greater immediate risk, the patient may be initially stabilized in a trauma center before being transferred to a burn unit. Physician judgment will be necessary in such situations and should be in concert with the regional medical control plan and triage protocols.
9. Burned children in hospitals without qualified personnel or equipment for the care of children.
10. Burn injury in patients who will require special social, emotional, or rehabilitative intervention.

*Excerpted from Guidelines for the Operation of Burn Centers (pp. 79-86), Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006, Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons*

### Severity Determination

#### First Degree (Partial Thickness)

Superficial, red, sometimes painful.

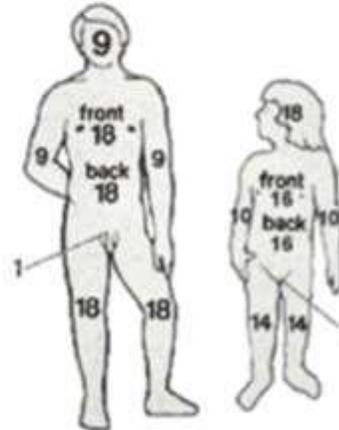
#### Second Degree (Partial Thickness)

Skin may be red, blistered, swollen. Very painful.

#### Third Degree (Full Thickness)

Whitish, charred or translucent, no pin prick sensation in burned area.

### Percentage Total Body Surface Area (TBSA)



## Appendix E: Consensus Guidelines for the Initial Management of Burns by Hospitals

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Hospitals are to use these Consensus Guidelines only in burn surge incidents

### Signs & Symptoms:

1st degree burns (superficial): Reddened skin that blanches with pressure

2nd degree burns (partial thickness): Moist, red, weeping surface, intact or broken blisters,

painful 3rd degree burns (full thickness): Dry, pale, dark red, white, brown or charred skin, may be painless

Airway compromise: Wheezing, dyspnea, hoarseness, stridor

Inhalation injury: Facial burns, singed nares, carbonaceous sputum, enclosed space fire, altered LOC

### Obtain History of:

PMH/Meds/Allergies

Recent illness or trauma

History of event, mechanism of injury, other trauma (falls, loss of consciousness, etc), time of injury:

- Electrical contact (AC/DC, amps, volts or lightning)
- Enclosed or open space exposure
- Type of chemical or toxic exposure
- Duration & concentration of exposure
- Presence of fire, smoke, or distinctive odors

### Notes:

1. Guidelines for children apply for children under age 12 or < 36 kg (Broselow)

- 2. TBSA = Total burn surface area • Stop the burning process (remove clothing)

### General Guidelines

- Stop the burning process (remove clothing)
- Assess ABC's (airway, breathing, circulation)
- Establish IV access
- Treat pain
- Remove jewelry or other potentially constricting items
- Look for other trauma
- Keep environment warm
- Frequent vital signs & assessment of peripheral pulses: *BP can be taken on burn extremities*
- Limit oral intake to ice chips sparingly
- Electrical burns: EKG monitoring, look for contact wounds Consider rhabdomyolysis.
- Chemical burns: Copious irrigation with warm water. *Brush dry chemicals off prior to irrigation, certain chemicals require special considerations (e.g. hydrofluoric acid)*
- Immunize against tetanus
- Refer to Burn Center based upon State BMCI Plan

- Transport patients in clean, dry sheet (or burn sheet) – no ointments
- Method of transport per collaborative agreement of sending/receiving facility

### **Airway Control/Inhalation Injury**

- Titrate > 94%
- Look for signs of inhalation injury.
  - Consider potential for inhalation injury in all victims of closed-space injury.
  - Consider potential for inhalation injury in all those who inhaled fumes or steam.
  - Carbon monoxide & cyanide are commonly present in closed-space fires.
- Consider intubation.
  - Evidence of airway compromise
  - Significant decrease in mental status
  - Circumferential partial or full thickness chest burns
  - Extensive burns or facial burns
- ABG's & CO level is suspected inhalation injury

### **Assessment of Injury**

- Lund-Browder diagram preferred (or Rule of 9's) for adults.
- Lund-Browder diagram preferred for children. (*Patient's* palm, including fingers = 1%, may also be used.)

### **Fluid Resuscitation**

It is important to emphasize that the volume of fluid actually infused in practice is adjusted according to the individual patient's urinary output and clinical response. Although being able to estimate and predict how the 24-hour burn resuscitation might unfold is highly valuable, the actual 24-hour total resuscitative volumes patients receive are highly variable due to patient variability in the response to injury.

#### **Fluid Resuscitation**

- Initial by EMS
  - 125 mL/hr  $\leq$  5 yrs. of age
  - 250 mL/hr 6-13 years of age
  - 500 mL/hr adults  $\geq$  14 years of age
- Once TBSA is calculated,
  - 2 mL/kg/%TBSA for  $\geq$  14 years of age
  - 3mL/kg/%TBSA for < 14 years of age
- Fluid should be adjusted to maintain appropriate urine output:
  - Patients < 30kg
    - 1.0mL/Kg/hr
  - Patients > 30 kg
    - 0.5mL/kg/hr
- Add glucose for those less than 10kg: D5LR or D5LR at 4mL/kg (+ 20KCL once available)
  - Do not adjust this fluid rate. Only discontinue when enteral feeding has started

### **Pain control**

- Narcotics as needed:
- Consider anti-anxiety medications in addition to pain meds.

### **Monitoring Resuscitation**

- Adjustments to fluid rate will be dependent upon patient response.
- Foley catheter: 15% TBSA or greater
- Goal urine output:
  - Patients less than 10Kg: 2.0mL/Kg/hr
  - Patients 10-29 kg: 1.0mL/Kg/hr
  - Patients >30 kg: 0.5mL/kg/hr
- Both over and under resuscitation causes problems. The rate should be adjusted up or down by 10% or by 1/3 to keep the urine output within the above goal range.
- Foley catheter is needed if Parkland formula is used.

### **Treatment Priorities for Delayed Transfer to a Burn Center (up to 24-48 hours)**

**Use treatment guidelines as above. Consult burn center with questions (physician, nursing or therapy).**

### **Volume Resuscitation**

- Resuscitation formula is a starting point for predicting resuscitation needs
- Volume resuscitation needs to be modified based upon patient response to ensure organ perfusion, but prevent volume overload.
- Monitor urine output according to guidelines, and adjust resuscitation as needed.
- Consult with Burn Center regarding ongoing fluid resuscitation needs.
- Circumferential burns
  - Assess circulation to extremities.
  - Consult with burn center physician about need for escharotomies.

### **Wound Care**

- Wound care does not take precedence over life-threatening injuries or resuscitation.
- Assure appropriate pain control and ability to maintain airway.
- Gowns & gloves for all contact with wounds. Add a mask when wounds are open.
- Debride loose epidermis and blisters > 2 cm.
- Cleanse wounds with soap and warm water. Remove topical agents and provide gentle debridement.
- Apply silver sulfadiazene, bacitracin or double antibiotic ointment (bacitracin/polymyxin) into gauze for burn dressings once or twice per day.
- After wound cleansing, use only bacitracin or double antibiotic ointment (bacitracin/polymyxin) for facial burns.
- No prophylactic antibiotics should be given.

## Appendix

### Age/TBSA Survival Grid

Provided by Jeffrey R. Saffle, MD  
 Director, Intermountain Burn Center  
 Salt Lake City, UT

CAVEAT: This grid is intended only for mass burn casualty disasters where responders are overwhelmed and transfer possibilities are insufficient to meet needs.

**This table is based on national data on survival and length of stay.**

Triage Decision Table of Benefit-to-Resource Ratio based on Patient Age and Total Burn Size

Age/ years	Burn Size (%TBSA)									
	0 – 10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	91+%
0-1.99	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Expectant
2-4.99	Outpatient	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
5-19.9	Outpatient	High	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
20-29.9	Outpatient	High	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
30-39.9	Outpatient	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
40-49.9	Outpatient	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
50-59.9	Outpatient	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Expectant	Expectant
60-69.9	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Expectant	Expectant
70+	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Expectant	Expectant	Expectant	Expectant	Expectant

***These Consensus Guidelines were developed by:***

- Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Burn Center (Milwaukee)
- Columbia St. Mary’s Milwaukee Burn Center (Milwaukee)
- Regions Hospital Burn Center (St. Paul, Minnesota)
- University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics Burn Center (Madison)

## Appendix F: Summary of Treatment Algorithm for Burn Victims

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### Step 1: STOP the BURN and SECURE the SCENE.

Extinguish flames, cool scalds, flush chemicals, and complete decontamination to protect patient and health care providers from further injury.

### Step 2: COMPLETE a PRIMARY SURVEY.

- Airway: facial burns, facial swelling, singed nasal hair
- Breathing: wheezing, stridor, carbonaceous sputum
- Circulation: circumferential burns, diminished pulses
- Do NOT intubate for facial burns alone; use standard indications for intubation.

### Step 3: COMPLETE A SECONDARY SURVEY. Evaluate carefully for non-burn injuries.

Most other injuries take priority over cutaneous burns. Use standard trauma management for other injuries: suture lacerations, splint fractures, etc. IVs placed through burns should be sutured in place. Be sure to rule out all other injuries. Patients who require immediate surgery should have burn resuscitation continued throughout. Burn wounds can be considered very clean for the first 12-24 hours following injury.

### Step 4: DEBRIDE/DIAGRAM the BURNS. Debride all burn wounds and diagram/document extent and depth of burns.

BE METICULOUS: Much depends on accurate burn assessment. Use the Lund and Browder Chart if available; otherwise, use Rule of Nines. Remember that the patient's palm (with fingers) is 1% of total body surface. Create a diagram of wounds; consider digital photos.

### Step 5: BEGIN RESUSCITATION. Fluid resuscitation is the most important step in initial burn treatment.

1. Formal fluid resuscitation is indicated for any patient with burns >10% TBSA and for patients with multiple traumas, inhalation injury or chemical or electrical burns.

#### Fluid Resuscitation

- Initial by EMS
  - 125 mL/hr  $\leq$  5 yrs. of age
  - 250 mL/hr 6-13 years of age
  - 500 mL/hr adults  $\geq$  14 years of age
- Once TBSA is calculated,
  - 2 mL/kg/%TBSA for  $\geq$  14 years of age
  - 3mL/kg/%TBSA for < 14 years of age
- Fluid should be adjusted to maintain appropriate urine output:
  - Patients < 30kg
    - 1.0mL/Kg/hr
  - Patients > 30 kg
    - 0.5mL/kg/hr
- Add glucose for those less than 10kg: D5LR or D5LR at 4mL/kg (+ 20KCL once available)

- Do not adjust this fluid rate. Only discontinue when enteral feeding has started
- 2. Place a foley catheter. Keep NPO. Consider NG tube.
- 3. Use IV narcotics for pain control.

**Step 6: Triage Disposition: These decisions should be made in consultation with Lead Burn Center**

# Appendix: G: Initial Burn Assessment and Treatment guidelines

A PDF version can be requested from Ascension Columbia St. Mary's

## Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Regional Burn Center INITIAL BURN ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT

### Burn Center Referral Criteria

A burn center may treat adults, children, or both.

Burn injuries that should be referred to a burn center include:

1. Partial-thickness burns greater than 10% total body surface (TBSA).
2. Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints.
3. Third-degree burns in any age group.
4. Electrical burns including lightning injury.
5. Chemical burns.
6. Inhalation injury.
7. Burn injury in patients with preexisting medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality.
8. Any patient with burns and concomitant trauma (such as fractures) in which the burn injury poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality. In such cases, if the trauma poses the greater immediate risk, the patient may be initially stabilized in a trauma center before being transferred to a burn unit. Physician judgement will be necessary in such situations and should be in concert with the regional medical control plan and triage protocols.
9. Burned children in hospitals without qualified personnel or equipment for the care of children.
10. Burn injury in patients who will require special social, emotional, or rehabilitative intervention.

Excerpted from guidelines for the Operation of Burn Centers (pp 79-86), Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006 Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons.

### ASSESSMENT

#### 1. Examine Patient

- Assess for other trauma
- Obtain circumstances surrounding burn injury and past medical history
- Burns do not alter LOC. If LOC is altered, look for another cause: smoke inhalation, anoxia, head injury, etc.

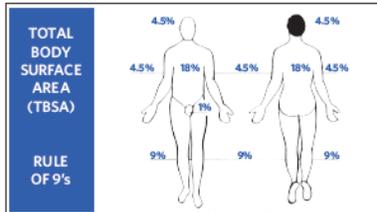
#### 2. Determine Degree of Burn

- 1st degree: light to bright red, painful, sunburn-appearing
- 2nd degree (partial thickness): bright red, moist, painful
- 3rd degree (full thickness): white, brown or black, may appear dry, charred or leathery and no sensation

#### 3. Estimating Extent of Burn:

Use rule of 9's for adults  
Scattered burns: Patient's hand and fingers = 1% TBSA  
Infants/Small Children: Head = 18%, each arm = 9%, each leg = 14%  
Chest = 18% and Back = 18% (Essentially taking 4% from each leg, and 1% from perineum to add to the head)

09-3380-37 Rev. 10/15



### TREATMENT

#### Minor Burns

- Cool for 3-5 minutes with tap water for pain relief if burn is  $\leq$  5% TBSA
- Gentle cleansing with mild soap and water
- Dressings per institutional protocol
- Follow-up care as needed

#### Severe Burns

##### Airway

- Maintain airway and use oxygen as needed
- Assess for inhalation injury

##### Fluid Resuscitation

- Secure veinway: large bore peripheral IVs
- Small frequent doses of IV narcotics as needed for pain control
- Use Lactated Ringers, Plasmalyte or Normosol
- IV rates during pre-hospital management and primary survey in the hospital
  - $\leq$  5 years 125 mL/hr.
  - 6-13 years 250 mL/hr.
  - $\geq$  14 years 500 mL/hr.
- IV rates during secondary survey after TBSA assessment

##### All burns (excluding electrical)

- Adults & Children  $\leq$  14 years = 2mL x kg x % TBSA
  - Children < 14 years = 3mL x kg x % TBSA
  - Infants and Children  $\leq$  30 kg = 3mL x kg x % TBSA
- Plus DSLR at maintenance rate

##### Electrical Injury

- All ages = 4mL x kg x % TBSA
- Plus DSLR at maintenance rate for infants and children  $\leq$  30 kg

##### Urine Output: Goals

- Adults & children  $\leq$  14 yrs (> 30 kg.) 0.5 mL/kg/hr. (or 30-50 mL/hr.)
- Children  $\leq$  30 kg 1 mL/kg/hr.

Increase or decrease fluids by 1/3 to reach goals

### Chemical Burns

- Brush dry chemicals off prior to irrigation
- Copious, continuous irrigations with water to the wound
- Call or use resources for specific treatment of chemical involved

### Electrical Burns

- Cardiac monitoring
- Examine for electrical contact wounds
- IV rate to maintain urinary output at 1 mL/kg/hr. (75-100 mL/hr. for adults)
- Injury could be responsible for arrhythmias, hypertension, seizures, fractures and renal failure

### Inhalation Injury

- Suspect if fire occurred in closed space (e.g. house fire)
- Maintain airway and supply 100% oxygen
- Intubate for evidence of, or risk for airway compromise
- If ET tube < 7.5 consider early exchange to larger tube
- Signs of elevated carboxyhemoglobin levels include: altered mental status or headache
- If inhalation injury is suspected and bicarb is < 16 consider cyanide toxicity and discuss need for treatment with burn surgeon
- Include ABGs and carbon monoxide level with labs

### General Care

- Pulse, blood pressure and urine output hourly if stable, more frequently if necessary
- Small frequent doses of IV narcotics for pain control as needed
- Limit oral intake to ice chips sparingly
- Immunize against tetanus
- Check peripheral pulses; remove jewelry or other potentially constricting items

### Hospital Transfer (Adults)

- Cover burns with clean, dry, sheet or dressing
- Maintain core body temperature by adding blankets as needed, warm room, etc.
- May place plastic wrap over wound to keep patient warm and help with pain control
- DO NOT wrap in wet sheets, blankets or apply ice
- DO NOT apply creams or ointments to burns

### FOR BURN TRANSFERS CALL

**MILWAUKEE METRO AREA (414) 272-BURN (2876)**  
**OUTSIDE METRO AREA (800) 272-BURN (2876)**

For additional burn education on care of burns or Advanced Burn Life Support courses (ABLS) call 414-585-1163.

