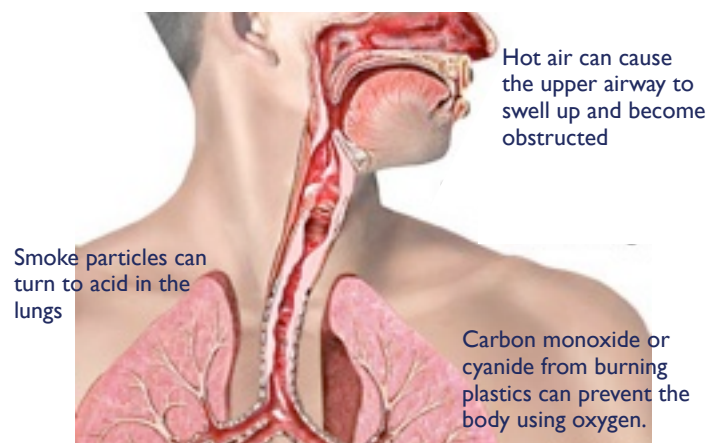


# MAJOR BURNS

Because major burns are so distressing to treat, it is easy to focus on the burn and neglect other critical problems.

## Inhalational injury

Always give oxygen because



## Major trauma

If there is a blast or a fall, suspect fractures and bleeding.

## Ischaemic limb

Deep burns that extend around a limb may cause it to become painful, pale, pulseless and paralysed. The burnt skin must be urgently split by a surgeon.

## Scenario

The cover over a pot of molten alumina has given way, causing an employee's leg to become immersed to the knee, and splashing material onto his chest and face. He screams in pain and his co-workers pull him to safety. Some clothing is on fire.

## Task

Some of you will be asked to tackle a similar practice scenario this month.

Discuss your approach with your colleagues before then.

## Question

Describe two methods to estimate the extent of the burn. Should skin that is red but not blistered be included in the calculations?

## Step-by-step

- ★ **Stop, drop, roll to extinguish the fire.**
- ★ **Irrigate area with cool water for at least 20 minutes. Irrigate chemical burns longer.**
- ★ **Apply a cervical collar if blast or fall.**
- ★ **Clear airway and reassess often.**
- ★ **Give 8 L/min oxygen by mask.**
- ★ **Check circulation. If able, insert an intravenous line for fluids and morphine.**
- ★ **Remove rings and jewelry**
- ★ **Elevate limbs with circumferential burns.**
- ★ **After irrigation, keep patient warm**
- ★ **Sandwich non-chemical burns between two layers of cling film.**
- ★ **DO NOT wind cling film around the limb**
- ★ **DO NOT irrigate with ice water.**