

THERMAL BURN PREVENTION

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES - FIRE SAFETY

October 2022

According to the Occupation Safety and Health Administration, there are over 41,000 workplace thermal burn injuries every year. Additionally, we can confirm that we have had these injuries in our workplace. Burns can be some of the most painful and horrific injuries. With an ounce of prevention we can prevent these from occurring and mitigate them when they happen.

How to prevent thermal burns?

First and foremost, efforts should be made to eliminate the source. Are different processes available? If not the proper engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment should be put in place. Can barriers be installed? Can the process be changed to increase distance or separation?



First Aid for Minor Thermal Burns:

- 1. Remove the source of heat.
- 2. Cool the burned area by running the burned area under cool water.
- 3. Remove rings or other items from the area of the burn (gently if possible).
- 4. Do not break blisters if present, and do not apply locations or creams to the area (this traps heat).
- 5. Apply a loose fitting clean bandage over the area. Ice can be applied over bandage if needed.
- 6. Seek medical care if needed.