

Electric Shock

First Aid Fact Sheet



Even for a mild electric shock, encourage the patient to seek medical aid for assessment of potential effects on the heart.

Signs & Symptoms

- difficulty in breathing or no breathing at all
- a weak, erratic pulse or no pulse at all
- burns, particularly entry and exit burns
- loss of consciousness cardiac arrest

Downed Power Lines

- Remain at least 6 metres from any cable.
- DO NOT attempt to remove the cable.
- If a vehicle is being touched by a high voltage cable, DO NOT go near the vehicle or try to remove the patient from the vehicle.
- Advise the patient not to move.



What to do

1. Check for danger to yourself, bystanders and the patient.
2. Switch off power, if possible, before trying to help the patient.
3. If the patient is in contact with high voltage lines, do not approach, but wait until power is disconnected by authorised electrical personnel.
4. If power cannot be switched off quickly, remove the patient from the electrical supply without directly touching them. Use a non-conductive, dry material (eg a dry wooden broom handle).
5. Follow DRSABCD. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
6. Hold any burnt area under cool running water for 20 minutes.
7. Remove jewellery and clothing from burnt areas, unless stuck to the burn.
8. Cover the burnt area with a loose and light nonstick dressing, preferably clean, dry, non-fluffy material such as plastic cling film.
9. Seek medical aid.

In a medical emergency call Triple Zero (000)

You could save a life with First Aid Training

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