

TO: MEUW Members
FROM: John Boogren, MEUW Safety Director
DATE: April 2, 2009
RE: What Happens If You Are Burned?

Burn accidents happen in our trade and it can be devastating to the victim's family and utility. There are two kinds of burns in this industry, arc flash/blast and electrical. Both of these burns may require a long painful recovery time. There are few accredited electrical burn centers in the area (see list). So, if you get burned...where will you go...what will your family do...where will your family stay? These are all questions that will have to be answered.

After a burn injury, the patient will likely be taken to a local hospital to be stabilized. Once stable the patient is moved to a regional burn center for specialized treatment. The local treatment center will choose the proper site of transfer but as a proactive decision on catastrophic health care, the injured employee and family could assist the local treatment center in this decision.

Contemplate the logistics of a drawn out recovery time and time that family members will have to spend in the hospital area. If the patient's family has relatives or family friends near one of the sites, this could help ease the burden of an extended hospital stay.

The employee, along with the employer, could make this decision before any injury occurs and lessen the stress on family members. In Section 1 of the MEUW Mutual Aid Manual, there are flow charts for accidents at utilities (which include contact information) and general guidelines to follow. There are even contact information forms for employees to fill out prior to accidents.

Don't wait until it's too late. For more information on burn injuries visit <http://www.burn-recovery.org> or <http://www.ameriburn.org/index.php>.

List of Accredited Burn Centers in Wisconsin and Bordering States

Wisconsin

St. Mary's Hospital – Burn Unit
2323 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53211-4508
414-291-1163

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Rehabilitation Center
600 Highland Ave., Madison, WI 53792-0001
608-263-8640

Illinois

University of Chicago Burn Center
5841 S. Maryland Ave., Chicago, IL 60637
773-702-6736

Loyola University Health System Burn Center
Loyola University Health System
2160 S. First Ave., Maywood, IL 60153
708-216-9000

Iowa

University of Iowa Burn Treatment Center
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
200 Hawkins Dr., 8JCP, Iowa City, IA 52242-1086
319-356-2496

Minnesota

Hennepin County Medical Center
Burn Center
701 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-347-2915

Regions Hospital
640 Jackson St., St. Paul, MN 55101
651-254-3456

All listings are accredited by the American Burn Association as of January 1, 2009.