

Prevention of Motor Vehicle Exhaust Burns

Factsheet

- Motorbikes, quad bikes, cars and other motor vehicles have exhausts that heat up quickly and can reach temperatures of up to 250° C
- Serious burns occur when skin comes into contact with an exhaust and the injury is usually severe enough to require a skin graft. Contact burns are common in both adults and children*
- People falling off motorbikes are often unable to lift the bike off themselves immediately leading to extended contact with the hot exhaust
- Most of these injuries are to the lower leg, particularly the calf

*Data obtained from Burns Registry of Australia and New Zealand (BRANZ) 2020



- ✓ Do wear protective clothing
- ✓ Do supervise children riding motorbikes and quad bikes
- ✓ Do fit an exhaust guard to motorbikes and quad bikes
- ✓ Do keep young children away from recently used motorbikes, cars, lawn mowers, etc



- ✗ Do not ride a motorbike or quad bike without protective clothing
- ✗ Do not allow a child to ride a motorbike that they cannot lift off themselves.
- ✗ Do not allow children to touch a hot exhaust



First Aid for Burns

If you, or someone you know is burnt, take the following actions:

1. Remove clothing and jewellery
2. Apply cool running water to the burn for **20 minutes** (effective up to 3 hours after injury)

Spraying water or alternating wet cloths can help if limited water
If no water available a hydrogel burn first aid dressing can be used until water available. Caution use on large %TBSA due to hypothermia

Do NOT use ice, butter, creams or alternatives

3. Cover burn with clean cloth and keep the patient warm
4. Seek medical attention for any burn bigger than 3cm; or with blisters; or if any other concerns