## Prevention of Motor Vehicle Exhaust Burns

## AAAZBA Australian & New Zealand Burn Association

## **Factsheet**

Care • Prevention • Research • Education

- 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

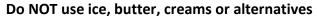


- Do not ride a motorbike or quad bike without protective clothing
- Do not allow a child to ride a motorbike that they cannot lift off themselves.
- Do not allow children to touch a hot exhaust

## First Aid for Burns

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

- 1. Remove clothing and jewellery
- 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



- 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

