

THERMOPLASTIC / BITUMEN BURN CARD

Advice to Medical Professionals

ASSESS

and stabilise patient - treat life-threatening conditions

APPLY

First Aid
(see reverse)

CONSULT

appropriate
Burn Specialist

DOCUMENT

location and
extent of injury



Removal of Thermoplastic / Bitumen

- **DO NOT REMOVE THERMOPLASTIC/BITUMEN** – this should only be removed by an appropriately trained health care practitioner, sometimes in an operating theatre.
- **LARGE SIZE & FULL THICKNESS BURNS** – refer to specialist burn unit.
- **CIRCUMFERENTIAL BURNS** – Consult specialist burn unit. If hardened thermoplastic/bitumen is causing constriction, elevate limb. Burn specialist may advise to soften and/or split to prevent blood flow restriction.



Eye Burns

- **IRRIGATE** as per First Aid (see reverse).
- **DO NOT REMOVE THERMOPLASTIC/BITUMEN.**
- **URGENT OPHTHALMOLOGICAL REFERRAL.**



Caution

- **DO NOT** apply creams, lotions or ointments.
- **DO NOT** give any food or drink until cleared to do so by qualified medical personnel.

THERMOPLASTIC / BITUMEN BURN CARD

Advice to Medical Professionals

BURN FIRST AID once life threatening injuries have been treated

PROTECT

Protect yourself and others from harm

LEAVE

Leave the Thermoplastic/Bitumen on the wound – do not remove as this may cause more burns

COOL

Cool the affected area with COOL RUNNING WATER for at least 60 minutes

COVER

Cover the wound with plastic wrap or non-stick burn dressing

SEEK

Seek medical attention after first aid as thermoplastic/bitumen burns can continue to burn if not appropriately treated



Treatment:

- **Airway & Breathing** particularly for neck and facial burns. If not breathing first aider to initiate resuscitation.
- **Eyes:** Immediately flush eyes with generous amounts of cool water. Do not rub eyes.
- **Assess circulation** particularly for circumferential burns.
- **Skin:** Immediately wash affected area with generous amounts of cool water.
- **Ingestion:** If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Wash out mouth thoroughly with water. Immediately contact the Poison Information Centre on 0800 764 766 (New Zealand Wide) or a doctor.

Keep the patient warm especially when using cool water.

Transfer to a specialist burn unit as appropriate.



CALL 111
(triple one)

if you are worried or
the patient is unstable