

Burning/Irritating Substances

WET-DECON First Contact Action Card

Emergency actions when managing potentially contaminated patient(s) in any healthcare setting. Tell those affected to:



REMOVE THEMSELVES

...from the immediate area to avoid further exposure to the substance or exposing others. Fresh air is important. If the skin is itchy or painful, find a water source.



REMOVE OUTER CLOTHING

...if affected by the substance. Try to avoid pulling clothing over the head. Do not smoke, eat or drink. Do not pull off clothing stuck to skin.



REMOVE THE SUBSTANCE

...from skin using a dry absorbent material to either soak it up or brush it off. Rinse continually with water only if the skin is itchy or painful.

Additional guidance relating to REMOVE, REMOVE, REMOVE:

REMOVE or ISOLATE	Reassure patient(s), direct outside if feasible or move to isolation area, limit their movement, do not touch
CONTAIN	Consider need for lockdown, limiting access and egress, switch air conditioning off
ALERT	ED Consultant and Nurse in Charge should be informed Escalation to Manager, Police, and NHS England may be required
DISROBE	Instruct patient to REMOVE outer clothing, not to eat, drink or smoke (avoid pulling clothes over-head, do not to pull off if stuck to the skin)
ASSESS	REMOVE the substance from the skin using Rinse-Wipe-Rinse Remembering to start at head and work down



IF THE SUBSTANCE IS BURNING OR IRRITATING THE SKIN

- DO NOT touch the patient(s)
- Provide / direct patient(s) to clean, running water source
- Instruct patient(s) to begin rinsing affected areas starting with hair, (head back) hands, face working down and away from body for minimum of 90 seconds
- Instruct patient(s) to place all used waste in waste bags / bins and isolate
- Attempt to maintain privacy and dignity and follow any other specialist advice
- Observe for signs of effects of substance on non-exposed personnel



Improvised WET-DECON Kit [Found in MAJAX room]



- Grey box - Patient to stand, to collect waste
- Gloves disposable - See disrobing card
- Scissors - So clothes not removed over head
- Waste bags - for clothing
- Bucket - refill with warm water from hose
- Towel, Gown, Slippers