

SCOUT WOUND QUIZ ANSWERS AND DISCUSSION

1. A fellow Scout has gashed his leg on a piece of broken glass and it's bleeding heavily. While rushing to the emergency room, do you:

- Apply a tight tourniquet just above the wound
- Apply continuous pressure with lots of gauze or a thick towel

Apply firm, direct pressure to the wound with sterile gauze or a thick towel. Don't apply a tourniquet, which can permanently damage tissue. Keep the injured area elevated, above the heart, to help decrease blood flow. If the blood soaks through the dressing, add more gauze or another cloth, but don't remove the first dressing. This can interrupt clotting. Get emergency help immediately.

2. Scouter Ross has dropped a pot of boiling soup from the stove and scalded his arms. The skin is bright red and large blisters are starting to form, and the edges of his uniform sleeves are sticking to the skin. Should you:

- Remove his sleeves, and apply butter to the burns.
- Run cool water on his arms, lift his arms above his heart, and take him to the emergency room.

This kind of blistering means a second-degree burn. First-degree burns -- which affect only the *epidermis*, or outer layer of skin -- can be handled with at-home first aid. But more serious burns require emergency medical treatment. Do *not* remove or pull away clothing that is stuck to the skin. And don't break blisters, which increases the risk of infection. Instead, run cool water over her arms or apply cool sterile compresses, then take her to the hospital.

Discuss 1st degree burn treatment:

- The afflicted area should be held under still, cool water until the pain subsides or for fifteen minutes. Should there be no way to do so, apply cold compresses. This controls any swelling present. Resist the urge to apply ice.
- Use a sterilized gauze bandage to dress the burn. Fluffy cotton is not recommended, as lint can get into the burn. Wrap it loosely. This will keep air from irritating the afflicted area.
- The person suffering from the burn can elect to use pain relievers such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen.
- Minor burns tend to heal even without attention. Those who are suffering from minor burns only need to watch out for infection, Avoid applying ice to the area as it will damage the area more. Egg whites, butter, and ointments may seem like a good idea, but they can cause infection if applied to burned skin.

3. Your Patrol Leader was using an axe to cut some firewood -- and cut off her/his finger in the process. What should you do?

- Put the severed finger directly on ice and rush her/him to the hospital.
- Wrap the finger in damp gauze, place it in a plastic bag, and put the bag on ice. Rush her/him and the severed finger to the hospital.

First apply pressure to the wound to stop the bleeding. Then gently rinse the amputated finger to remove any dirt, wrap it in damp gauze, and put it in a sealed plastic bag. Put the sealed bag in ice water or in very cold water if no ice is available. Take the sealed bag, immersed in ice water, to the hospital.

4. Your Assistant Patrol Leader fell on the patio and knocked out his/her front tooth. Should you:

- Rinse it gently, place in a glass of salt water or milk, and immediately take it and the APL to the dentist or emergency room.
- Scrub the tooth clean, place it back in the APL's mouth, and then take the APL to the dentist or emergency room.

Hold the tooth by the crown (the part that appears above the gum) and gently rinse it off. Don't scrub it -- you can damage the root. For an adult, the best way to transport a tooth that's been knocked out is either to put it back in place or to hold it in the mouth between cheek and gum. That keeps the tooth moist and protects against bacteria. But children may swallow the tooth. So keep the tooth moist in a glass with salt water (saline) or milk. Never let it dry out because damage will start within minutes.

5. What should you do if Scouter Paul has accidentally hammered a nail right through his hand?

- Keep the nail in place, wrap the hand firmly in gauze or another clean dressing, and take him to the emergency room.
- Pull the nail out, wrap the hand firmly in gauze or another clean dressing, and take him to the emergency room.

It may upset you or the injured person to see a nail in her hand, but you can do more damage by pulling it out. Instead, stabilize the nail and reduce bleeding by firmly wrapping the area around the nail in clean gauze. Then take the person to the emergency room.

6. Your Patrol Leader just dropped a glass lantern and got a shard of flying glass in her/his eye. How can you help?

- Carefully remove the shard of glass from her/his eye and take her/him to the emergency room.
- Leave the glass in place, gently tape a styrofoam or paper cup over the eye, and take her/him to the emergency room.

If the glass (or for that matter any foreign particle) is floating on the surface of her eye, try flushing it out with saline solution or clean tap water. But if it's embedded in her eye or if you're not sure, don't pull it out. Don't rub the eye. Instead, gently tape a cup over the eye to keep her from accidentally jostling or rubbing at it, and take her for emergency treatment. Don't put any pressure on the eye, or you could worsen the injury.

7. A fellow Scout fell and scraped up both knees. You should:

- Rinse the wounds with water, remove any debris, and then apply antibiotic ointment and a bandage.
- Clean the area by pouring hydrogen peroxide on the wounds, and then let it air out.

Stop the bleeding by applying pressure to the wound, if needed -- many minor scrapes stop bleeding on their own. Use clean water to wash out the wound and remove any dirt or debris. Skip the peroxide or alcohol -- you don't need them and they may irritate the wound. Applying antibiotic ointment will help keep the area clean and moist, and covering it with a bandage will help keep bacteria out.

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BONUS QUESTION: What is a first-degree burn and how do you treat it?

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