

First Aid

Immediate first aid must be administered to injured firefighters or wounded civilians. Knowledge of, and training in, first aid is essential. In large fires there should be several trained people or a specialist crew.

Each fire crew needs a first aid kit containing at least;

- first aid manual that explains how to handle common problems,
- assorted adhesive bandages and straping tapes,
- aspirin and antiseptic creams and liquids,
- scissors and safety pins.



Plate 7. First aid kits supplied to the Regency Fire Centres by FFPCP and IFFM.

At least one member of each fire crew should be well trained in how to deal with;

- stoppage of breath (give artificial respiration, then lay in recovery position),
- serious bleeding (apply pressure to stop the bleeding and bandage the injury),
- burns (see paragraph below),
- broken bones (immobilize the injury with splints),
- shock (lay the victim in the recovery position),
- heatstroke (cool the body with water, then lay in recovery position).

The *recovery position* extends the head and neck so that a casualty maintains an open, widened airway, the tongue cannot fall to the back of the throat, and any vomit or fluid will drain freely. The casualty is lying on his side (Figure 12) supported by one leg and one arm. In the case of head or ear injury, keep the injured side down.

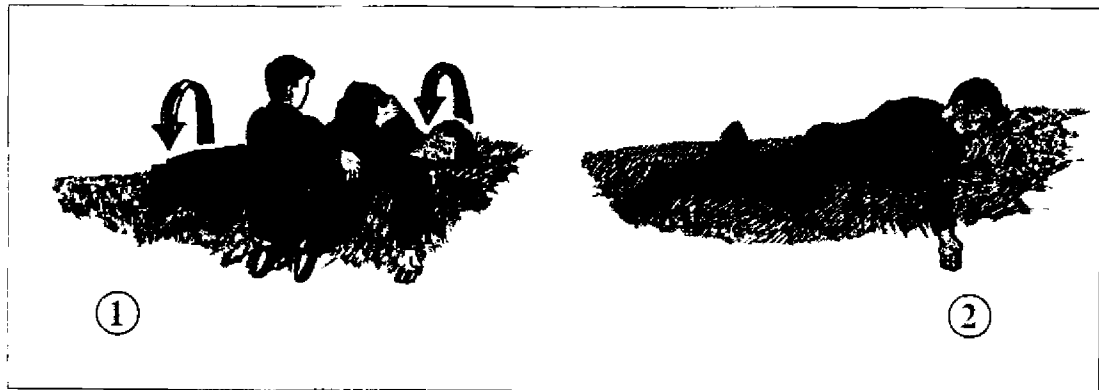


Figure 15. The two steps to place a person in the recovery position.

FFPCP and IFFM have prepared four pocket books in Bahasa Indonesia that are distributed after each training course: they cover first aid, treatment of burns, safety at forest fires and radio communication rules (Nicolas and Puri Indonesian Language Plus, 1998)

Treatment of burns

Burns need urgent treatment:

- Immediately reduce the wound temperature by irrigating with cold water for a minimum of ten minutes. The method is used in units that specialize in the treatment of severe burn injuries as it reduces tissue damage, speeds healing and helps a fuller recovery.
- Every firefighter must know the simple technique to cool the burn and be taught to take prompt action.
- Never apply greasy ointments as they seal heat into the wound and may also cause infection

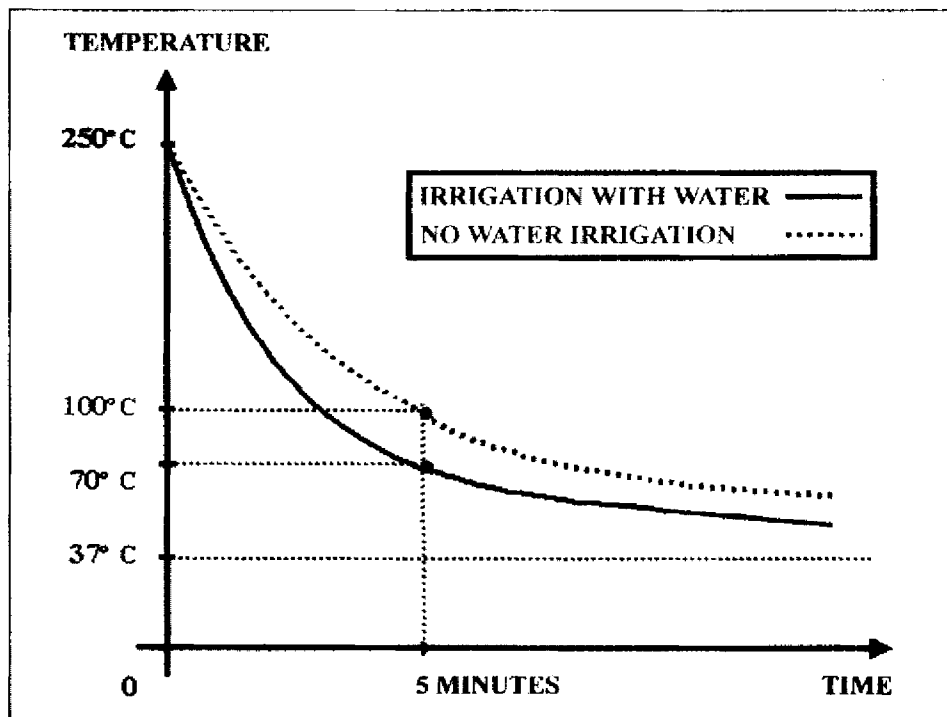


Table 4. Irrigating the burn with cold water for ten minutes minimizes the after-effects.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABRI	Angkatan Bersenjata Republik Indonesia (Armed Forces of Indonesia)
ASEAN	Association of South East Asia Nations
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFPCP	Forest Fire Prevention and Control Project (EU)
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Technical Cooperation)
HPH	Hak Pengusahaan Hutan (Forest Concession)
HPHTI	Hak Pengusahaan Hutan Tanaman Industri (Industrial Plantation)
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFFM	Integrated Forest Fire Management Project (GTZ)
MoFEC	Ministry of Forestry and Estate Crops
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSW	New South Wales (Australia)
NWCG	National Wildfire Coordinating Group (Washington D.C., USA)
PT.	Perseroan Terbatas (Limited Liability Company)
USA	United States of America
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator