



DATE:

12 May 2017

FOI REQUEST NO:

09_1718

FOI REQUEST & RESPONSE

I am requesting this information in accordance with the freedom of information act 2000

Q: what medical interventions are fire crews trained/able to deliver to a burns casualty at the scene in absence of ambulance service support?

A: All operational crew members undertake an Immediate Emergency Care (IEC) course which has a qualification for three years (HSE approved). Crew members may deliver a first aid intervention as per the instruction on the course and as laid down in our IEC manual.

Q: what is your current practice for thermal burns first aid in terms of irrigant/coolant applied, the advocated temperature of coolant and expected duration of cooling?

A.. The Rx protocols for thermal burns as identified in the IEC manual are:

- Cool the burn with water for 10 mins. Consider large burns for hypothermia. However there is no precise information on optimal temps or min and max.
- Remove jewellery
- Dress the burn with a sterile dressing that will not stick. Keep the dressing wet
- We have cling film in our trauma bags on all frontline appliances and the direction is that wet towels can be placed onto the cling film in order to cool.

In particular, we are seeking to identify how many services employ hydrogel products (eg Water Jel) for burns in either a cooling or dressing capacity within those guidelines.

We used to have such products especially for our hot fire instructors in the carbonaceous training containers, but they were taken off following the publication of reports discouraging their use. There is no steer towards these products in our IEC manual.