

INHALATION INJURY

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Inhalation injuries happens when casualty inhales hot steam or hot air, smoke or poisonous chemicals and carbon monoxide (most common in fire emergencies).

First aid for an inhalation injury

- ESM (scene survey), make sure you can give first aid safely without putting yourself in danger.
- Do a scene and primary survey, give first aid for the ABC's. Make sure the casualty is breathing effectively and has fresh air.
- Try to make the casualty's breathing as easy as possible. Change their position to semi-sitting and loosen clothing, but making sure to keep them warm.
- Monitor their breathing. Give assisted breathing if breathing is ineffective and if that doesn't work and breathing stops, give AR.
- Give first aid for shock.
- Keep giving care until medical help arrives.

Illness related breathing emergencies - when casualty has trouble breathing and there is no reason to suspect an injury or poisoning, then it is probably a result of illness. Such illnesses leading to this are: asthma, allergies, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, pneumonia etc. The basic first aid for all these mentioned above is the same.