

First Aid for Electric Shock Guidelines

As part of the local area induction, all staff and students must be made aware of the location of first aid kits and a list of local First Aiders.

Refer to the First Aid Procedure for information on applicable additional first aid kit modules, e.g. Burns Module.

First Aid for Electric Shock

- 1. Check for **danger** to yourself, bystanders and the casualty.
- 2. Switch off power before trying to help the casualty. Do not touch the person until you are certain the power is turned off or the person is no longer in contact with the supply.
 - a. If power cannot be switched off, remove the casualty from the electrical supply without directly touching them. Use a non-conductive, dry material (e.g. a dry wooden broom handle).
 - b. If the casualty is in contact with high voltage lines (for example, a piece of equipment has touched overhead power lines), **do not approach**. Wait until power is disconnected by authorised electrical personnel.
- 3. If you can safely access the casualty, follow DRSABCD.

Step 4 as per pathway below.

First Aid for Minor Electric Shock

If the patient is breathing normally, is coherent and has no physical signs of injury (for example, they describe the incident as having received a 'tingle' or a 'zap'):

4. Seek medical attention at a medical clinic or hospital emergency department. The University Health Services (UHS) Triage Nurse can be contacted for further assessment and monitoring (e.g. ECG) to assist and advise. Depending upon the situation, UHS may attend the scene.

Even for a mild electric shock, the casualty must be advised to seek medical aid for assessment of potential effects on the heart.

First Aid for **Severe** Electric Shock

If the patient is not breathing normally or unconscious or has physical signs of injury (for example a burn mark):

- 4. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 5. If the patient is not breathing, or not breathing normally, apply a defibrillator if available. Call Security (333) for a defibrillator if one is not in the vicinity.
- 6. Hold any burnt area under cool running water for 20 minutes. Remove jewellery and clothing from burnt areas, unless stuck to the burn.
- Cover the burnt area with a loose and light non-stick dressing, preferably clean, dry, non-stick material such as plastic cling (polyethylene) film.
- 8. Seek medical attention.

The casualty must be advised to seek medical aid for assessment of potential effects on the heart.

Follow the incident reporting guide as indicated by the table below.



First Aid Documentation and Incident Reporting

Documentation	Reporting Process
	It is very likely that any incident involving electricity will be a notifiable incident to a safety regulator (e.g. WorkSafe Victoria). Notification requires immediate reporting to a Regulator (by the HSW Manager) and requirements for not disturbing the scene of the incident.
	 Please ensure that the local Safety Officer/Manager/Supervisor is aware of the incident and that they must contact the Health, Safety and Wellbeing (OH&S) Manager or their delegate immediately for advice.
	 In Australia, where an incident occurs which may be notifiable to a Regulator, the Health Safety and Wellbeing (OH&S) Manager must be immediately notified by phone on 990 20222 or after hours by contacting Monash Security 990 27777.
	At overseas locations, the local OH&S Manager or Ch Chief Operations Officer should be notified immediately, who will subsequently notify the Health Safety and Wellbeing (OH&S) Manager.
First Aid Report Form (hardcopy) First Aid Report Online Form (e-Form) FIRST AID REPORT ONLINE FORM	 First Aider is to complete the First Aid Report Form First Aider must record all treatment provided First Aid Report Forms are available in First Aid kits or from the OHS website First Aid Report Form must be forwarded to the Occupational Health Team for retention Email: BPD-OHNC@monash.edu Internal mail: 26 Research Way Clayton VIC 3800 First Aid Online Reports (e-Forms) can be accessed via the QR code on the first aid kit or from the OHS
Online Hazard & Incident Report via SARAH+ Report Something	 website. The casualty or supervisor must lodge an Incident Report as soon as practicable. Note: Anyone can enter a report on behalf of the casualty if they are not able to do so. Safety Officers can provide assistance with submitting reports via SARAH+.

Reference documents

- First Aid Procedure
- St John Ambulance First Aid Fact Sheet Electric Shock