



Occupational Health Unit

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Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program

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KEEPING CONNECTICUT'S WORKERS HEALTHY

WORKPLACE BURNS

Occupational burn injuries can be caused by fire, chemicals, heated objects or fluids, electricity, or other means. Burns can range from minor medical problems to life-threatening emergencies.



Food service workers, particularly chefs and line cooks, are at increased risk for work-related burns.

Workers who may be at risk for burn injuries at work should take precautions. Employers should work to eliminate burn hazards from their processes. However when burn hazards remain, employers should ensure that workers are properly protected and receive appropriate training.

FAST FACTS

Key Points

The following data is abstracted from physician reports to the Connecticut Occupational Injury and Illness Surveillance System (OISS).

- From 2003-2008, a total of 1648 workplace burns were reported to OIIS.
- Of all work-related illnesses and injuries reported to OIIS, 14% were workplace burns.
- Thermal (heat) burns accounted for 80% of all workplace burns, followed by chemical burns (18%) and electrical burns (2%).
- 59% of all illness and injury reports from workers in the Food Service industry were work-related burns.
- The rate of work-related burn injuries reported for Black workers was nearly twice as high as the rate for White workers.

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/burns.html>

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/302/16/1828.full.pdf> Also available in [Spanish](#)

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/restaurant_safety.pdf