

ELECTRIC SHOCK



Managing electric shock

Signs & symptoms

- Unconsciousness
- Difficulties in breathing or no breathing at all
- A weak, erratic pulse or no pulse at all
- Burns, particularly entrance and exit burns (where the electricity entered and left the body)
- Sudden onset of cardiac arrest.

WARNING

Be careful in wet areas such as bathrooms, as water conducts electricity.

Management

- 1. Check for danger to yourself and bystanders. Do not approach the patient.**
 - 2. Switch off power before trying to help the patient.**
 - 3. Remove the patient from the electrical supply without directly touching them.**
 - Use a non-conductive, dry material, e.g. dry wooden broom handle.
 - 4. Apply DRSABCD to the patient.**
 - 5. Wash and cool the burnt area under running water for 20 minutes.**
 - 6. Cover burn with non-adherent burns dressing**
 - plastic wrap, clean dressing or loosely applied aluminium foil.
 - 7. Seek medical aid for potential for cardiac arrhythmias.**
- ▼ **Downed powerlines:**
- remain at least 6 metres from any cable
 - do not attempt to remove the cable
 - do not go near a vehicle or try to remove a person from a vehicle being touched by a high voltage cable.
 - Advise the patient not to move.

In an emergency, call triple zero (000) for an ambulance

For more information on St John first aid training and kits, visit www.stjohn.org.au or freecall 1300 360 455