Determining Burn Severity

- What is the depth of the burn?
- What is the extent of the burn?
- Are any critical areas involved?
- Are there any pre-existing medical conditions or other injuries?
- Is the patient younger than 5 years or older than 55 years?

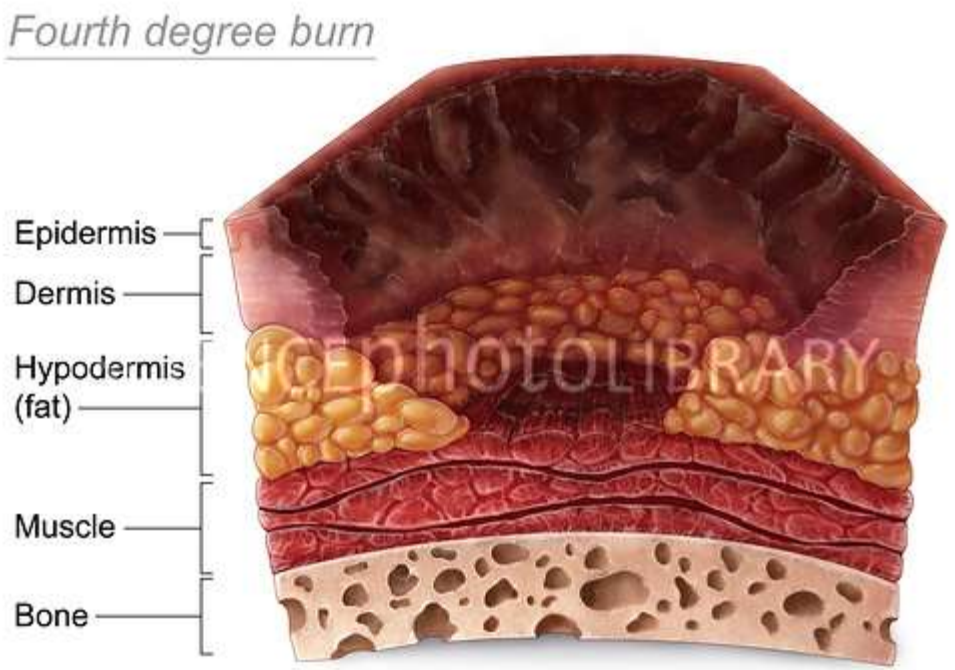
Depth of Burns

Full Thickness (Fourth Degree)

Damage to bones, tendons, muscles, blood vessels and nerves

Charring is present

Most common in Electrical Burns



General Emergency Care

- Your safety concerns are high (scene dangers, air quality, patient off gassing, runoff water)
- Follow proper BSI techniques. Sterile is important
- Stop the burning.
- Support the Airway. Maintain SpO2 greater than 94%
- Cover – Dry Sterile Dressing
- Prevent heat loss / Prevent Infection
- DO NOT use burn creams / ointment

Fluids, Electrolytes, and Acidosis

- Fluids are shifted from intravascular spaces to the zones of injury.
- Leaking skin causes plasma loss and electrolyte depletion.
- Inability to breathe completely complicates CO_2 elimination increasing acidosis