Massachusetts
Burn Injury Reporting System

www.mass.gov/dfs

Department of Fire Services
Stow Campus
1 State Road, P. O. Box 1025
Stow, Massachusetts  01775
978-567-3100

Springfield Campus
100 Grochmal Avenue
Springfield, MA  01151
978-567-3100

November 2018
1. **What is the burn injury reporting law in Massachusetts?**

Chapter 112, Section 12A of the Massachusetts General Laws provides for the mandatory reporting of the treatment of burn injuries.

2. **What kinds of burns must be reported?**

Any burn injury of 5% or more of the surface body area must be reported immediately by attending physician and/or emergency room personnel.

3. **How are burns reported?**

By calling the state’s toll-free, 24-hour Burn Hotline at 1-800-475-3443 and completing a written burn injury report and mailing it immediately to: M-BIRS, Office of the State Fire Marshal, P. O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775.

**or by**

Completing the written report and faxing it to the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 978-567-3199.

**and by**

Notifying the police chief/department of the city or town where the burn occurred.
4. Who is legally responsible for reporting burns?

“Every physician attending or treating a burn injury, or whenever any such case is treated in a hospital, sanitarium or other institution, the manager, superintendent or other person in charge thereof.”

5. When did the burn injury reporting system go into effect?

On June 1, 1984, a joint memo was issued to all Massachusetts hospitals, police chiefs, and fire chiefs from the state Commissioners of Public Safety and Public Health advising that, as of that date, the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting Law would be in effect. It remains a cooperative effort between the Department of Public Health and the Department of Fire Services.

6. What is the purpose of the burn injury reporting law?

Primarily enacted as an aid in detecting arsonists who may burn themselves accidentally during the course of their crime, the M-BIRS program has proven useful in developing a sound burn data base from which effective burn prevention and education programs may be and have been developed.

7. What about burns which occur out of state but which are treated here in Massachusetts?

All burns treated in Massachusetts must be reported.
TO: Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System

FROM: ________________________________

   Name of Hospital and Attending Physician

RE: Burn Injury Extending to 5% or More of Body Surface Area

To fax burn injury reports, dial (978) 567-3199.

When you fax the burn report, you satisfy both the telephone and written reporting
notification requirements for the State Fire Marshal. You still need to
notify the police chief in the community where the burn occurred.

-OR-

Call 1-800-475-3443 anytime to report burns over the phone AND mail this sheet to the above address.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Type of Burn:</strong> <em>(check one)</em></th>
<th><strong>Severity:</strong> <em>(check one)</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Flame</td>
<td>□ Minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Scald</td>
<td>□ Life-threatening</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Domestic Violence</td>
<td>□ Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Fire</td>
<td>□ Dead</td>
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<td>□ Contact</td>
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<td>□ Explosion</td>
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<td>□ Sunburn</td>
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<td>□ Chemical</td>
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</table>

If you have any questions about the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System, call the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380 or leave a message at 1-800-475-3443.
8. **Does this include burns treated by a private physician in a private setting?**
   Yes. All burns of 5% or more of the surface body area must be reported.

9. **What about patient transfers?**
   The physician and/or hospital, clinic etc. providing treatment of a burn must make the required notifications immediately.

10. **Is there a penalty for non-compliance?**
    Yes. Massachusetts law provides for punishment by a fine of up to one hundred dollars for violation of the burn injury reporting law. (C. 112, § 12A, MGL)

11. **Where do we obtain more burn injury reporting forms?**
    Forms are available online at www.mass.gov/dfs. Enter MBIRS in the search box for the correct page. You can also obtain forms by calling the 24-hour Burn Hotline at 1-800-475-3443 and leaving a request. In addition, you can write or call the State Fire Marshal’s Office at P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775, 978-567-3382.
The Burn Reporting Process

Physician, Hospital Emergency Room

DO BOTH

Call 1-800-475-3443 and send the written report to:
M-BIRS
Dept. of Fire Services
State Fire Marshal’s Office
P.O. Box 1025
Stow, MA 01775

OR

Fax the written report immediately to the State Fire Marshal’s Office to 978-567-3199

Call Police Chief in city or town where burn occurred

Fire Department (Arson Squad)
How To Report Burns...

Immediately!

1. Call the Massachusetts 24-Hour, Toll-Free Burn Hotline
   
   1-800-475-3443

2. Give the following information:
   
   A. Name of Hospital and Attending Physician
   B. Victim’s Name and Address (including city/town)
   C. Age of Victim
   D. Gender
   E. Local Police Notified?
   F. Date of Injury
   G. Work Related? (If "yes", Employer Name?)
   H. Address Where Burn Occurred (including city/town)
   I. Part of Body Injured or % BSA
   J. Cause of Burn
   K. Type of Burn (flame, scald, chemical, fire, electrical, sunburn, explosion, contact)
   L. Severity (minor, moderate, severe, life-threatening, dead)

3. Notify the police chief/department of the city or town where the burn occurred.

4. Complete the burn injury reporting form (Form FP-84-F, supplied by the State Fire Marshal’s Office) and forward immediately to:
   
   M-BIRS
   Office of the State Fire Marshal
   P.O. Box 1025
   Stow, MA 01775

5. You may combine the immediate telephone notification and the written report by faxing the written report immediately to 978-567-3199.

11/2018