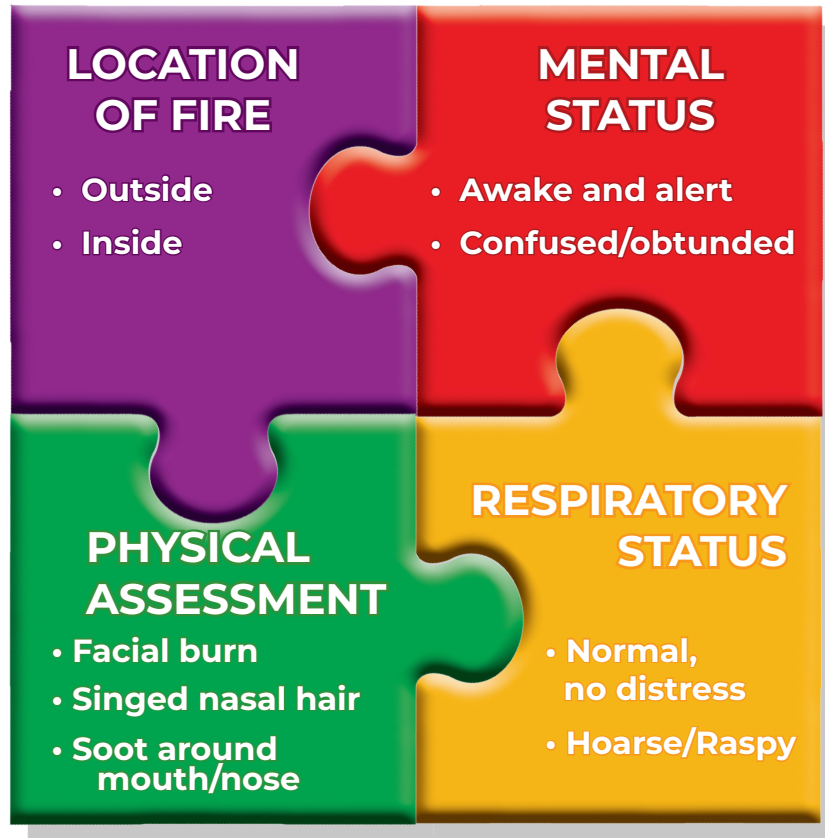


Inhalation Injury



INDEX OF SUSPICION



LOCATION OF FIRE: History is important. More likely to sustain an airway injury in an enclosed space. Duration of exposure increases risk.

PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT: A facial burn does not confirm an inhalation injury. One piece to the puzzle. Look for soot around mouth and nose.

RESPIRATORY ASSESSMENT: Upper airway injury produces signs and symptoms of hoarseness, drooling and stridor.

MENTAL STATUS: Patients with a thermal injury should be awake, if not identify the cause. Extended smoke exposure increases risk of carbon monoxide toxicity. Treatment includes 100% oxygen.

BURN REFERRALS

866-947-7840

For more information, contact:

DEBBIE HARRELL MSN, RN, NE-BC
513-824-5718 • dharrell@shrinenet.org