

# environmental and occupational case

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# Case 1

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- A 35-year-old white male with no significant past medical history was transferred from a small rural town in to the Regional Burn Unit at the University Hospital. The patient was a farmer's son and a 20 pack-year smoker. He was involved in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in the basement of his home. Subsequent explosion resulted in 16% total body surface area burn involving his face, neck and hands, along with difficulty with breathing and vision.

# Case 1

- Before transfer to the Burn Unit, the paramedics intubated the patient in the field and irrigated his eyes with water. A nasogastric tube and an indwelling urinary catheter were also placed. His examination at the Burn Unit showed conjunctival erythema, lacrimation, thick nasal discharge, wheezing, pharyngeal erythema and second-degree skin burns (see Figure 1). His initial laboratory reports were within normal limits. His arterial blood gas drawn on Assist Control mode of ventilation with a tidal volume of 8 cc/kg body weight, set respiratory rate of 12/min with patient rate at 14/min, PEEP of 5 and FiO<sub>2</sub> of 40% showed a pH of 7.48, a PaCO<sub>2</sub> of 32 mmHg and a PaO<sub>2</sub> of 70 mmHg. His chest X-ray portable anteroposterior view is shown in Figure 2.











































































































































