

# The TIER EFFECT Project

A US Dept of Defense Implementation Science Research  
Project to facilitate the system-wide implementation of  
changes to burns first aid practices and guidelines



U.S. Department of Defense



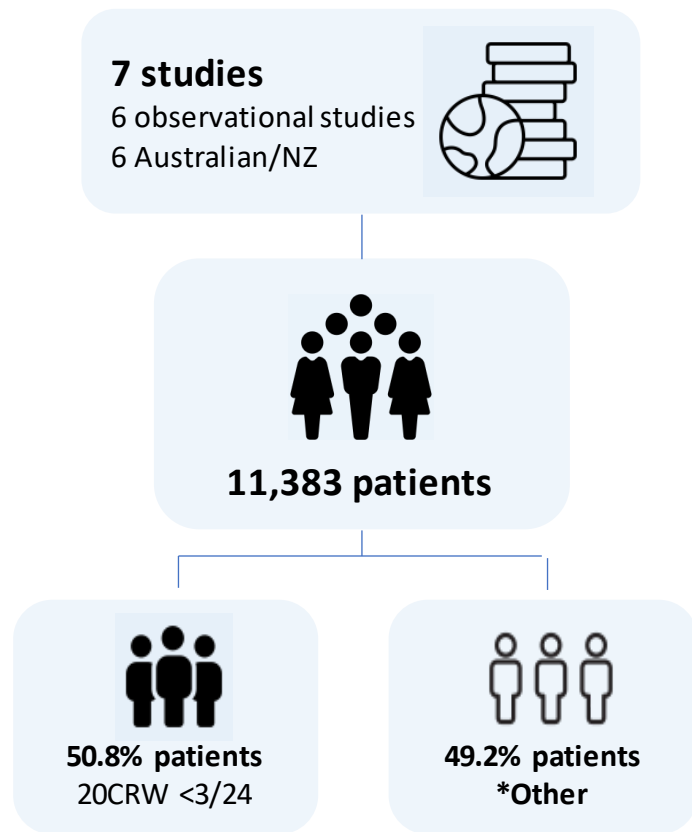
# What is the new practice?

**Apply 20 minutes of cool running water to the burn within three hours of injury**

**Collectively or consecutively  
Ideally as close to the time of injury as possible**



# Evidence: systematic review & meta-analysis findings



## Outcomes for patients who received 20CRW

**Full thickness burn**  
63% reduced odds



**Skin grafting**  
46% reduced odds



**Wound healing**  
1-3 days earlier



**Any surgery**  
36% reduced odds



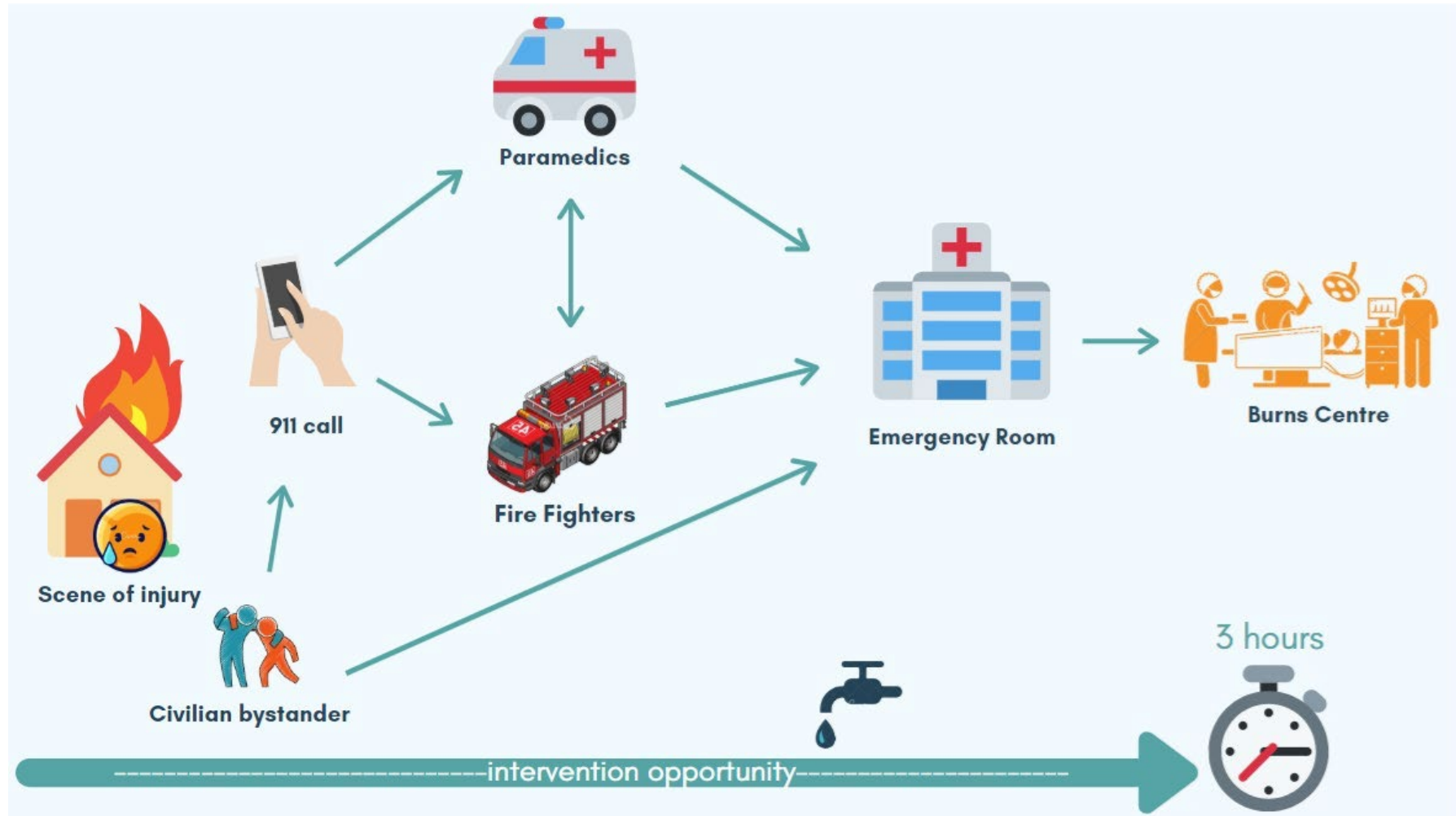
**Hospital admission**  
31% reduced odds



**Mortality**  
No differences



# System-wide multi-agency change to practices & guidelines



# Benefits for patients

**Full thickness burn**  
63% decreased odds



**Wound healing**  
1-3 days earlier



Reduces scars & contractures

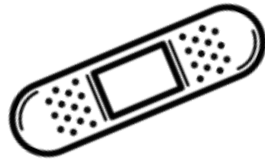
Less surgical risks

Less healthcare costs

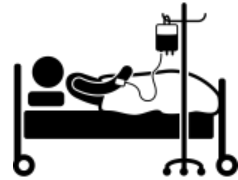
Less separation from families

# Benefits for hospitals

**Wound healing**  
1-3 days earlier



**Hospital admission**  
31% decreased odds



**Skin grafting**  
46% decreased odds



Better patient outcomes

Reduces surgical demand

Reduced bed access pressure

Reduces hospital costs

# Potential burn centre admissions avoided

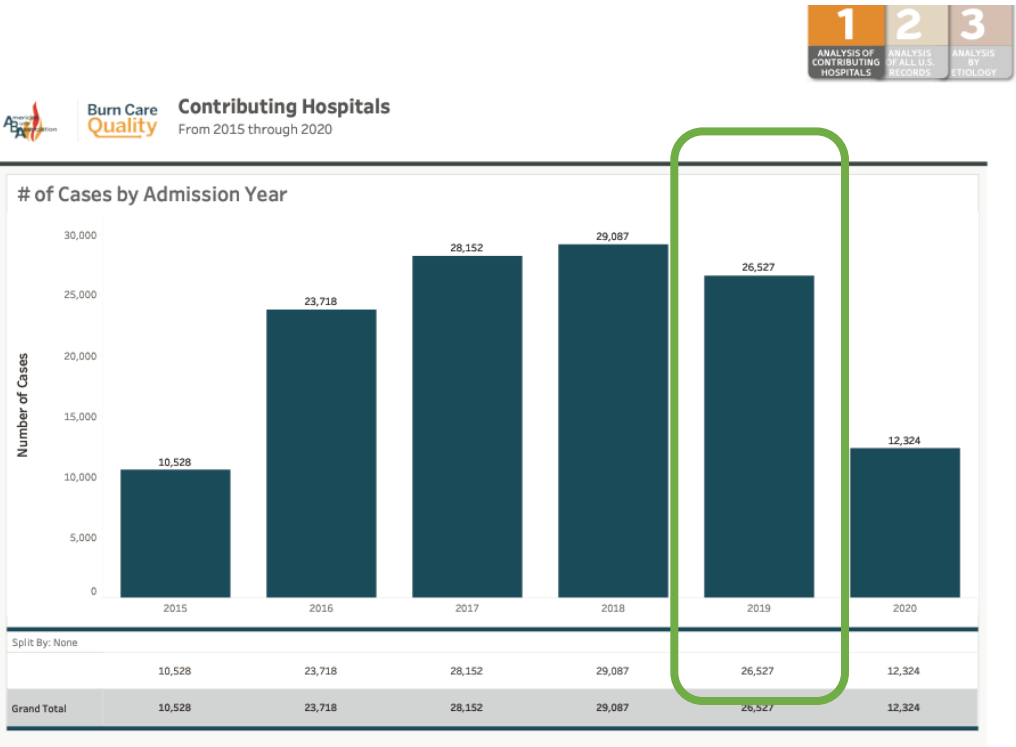
(based on ABA Burn registry data)

**Hospital admission**  
31% decreased odds



**ABA BCQP Report**  
**2019:** 26527 admissions

**~ 8223 admissions potentially prevented**



**ABA BCQP data**

# What does evidence and data say about access to water?

Use of contaminated water for burn cooling documented in multiple publications regarding mass burn casualty situations



**Bali Bombing 2002**

Patients in swimming pools  
together whilst waiting  
transfer



**Victorian Black Saturday fires 2009**

Patients cooled themselves in dams  
that had livestock run-off



**White Island Eruption 2020**

Patients cooled with water  
stored on evacuation boats

Before EMS arrival\*



# What does evidence and data say about hypothermia and burns first aid?

Hypothermia in acutely presenting burn injuries to a regional burn service: incidence and impact on outcome  
Lukusa M, Allorto N, Wall S. 2020

**Hypothermia ( $T < 36^{\circ}\text{C}$ )**  
103 (34%) patients

## Predictors



Inhalation  
%TBSA

Age  
%TBSA



**2016 – 2018**  
**301** burn patients  
admitted to South  
African Burn unit



**Burn Care  
Quality**



**80% of burns in the US are  
<10%TBSA**

These patients have a low  
risk of developing  
hypothermia

**Thank You!**



# FIREGROUND RESUSCITATION

**Robert B Dunne, MD FACEP, FAEMS**

Medical Director

Detroit Fire Department

Detroit East Medical Control Authority



**DETROIT  
Fire Department**

**EAGLES 2023**

# QUESTIONS

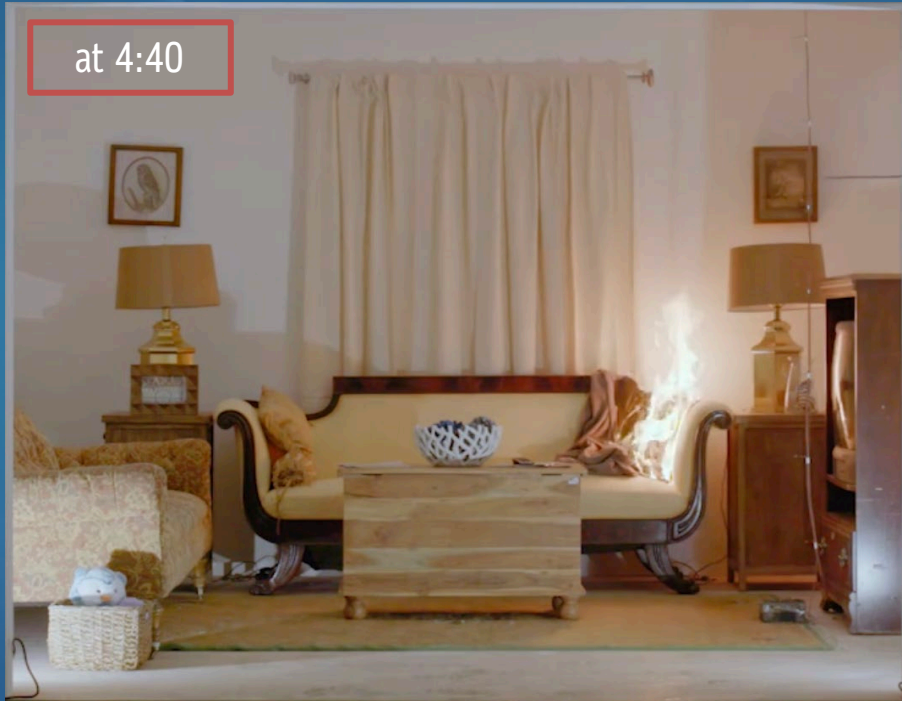
- Why are fires killing people?
- Why is fireground resuscitation different?
- How can we save more people?
- How can we best protect our firefighters?



# EVOLUTION OF RESIDENTIAL FIRE DYNAMICS

*Transition from legacy to modern materials changes fire dynamics and fire smoke<sup>1</sup>*

Natural (legacy)



Synthetic (modern)



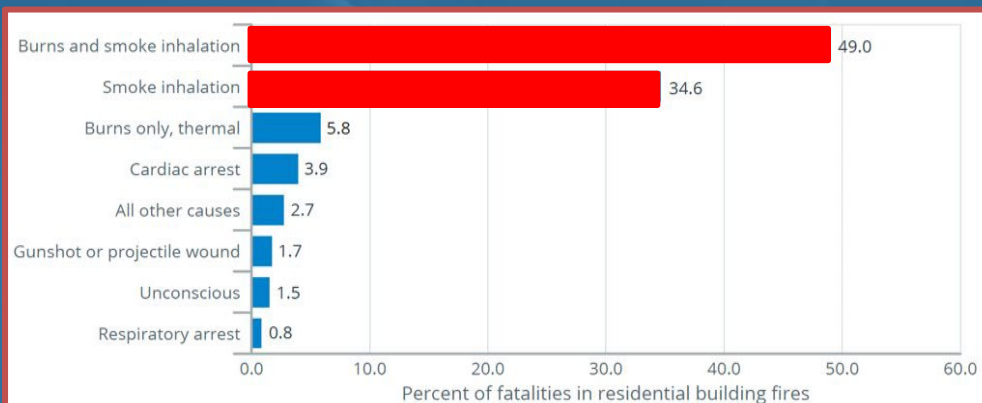
200x more smoke and 8x faster burning rate than 50 years ago<sup>2</sup>

1. *New comparison of natural and synthetic home furnishings* (2020, September 30). UL's FSRI - Fire Safety Research Institute. <https://fsri.org/>  
furnishings. 2. *Modern homes burn 8 times faster than 50 years ago*. (2013, September 13). CBC. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/modern-homes-burn-8-times-faster-than-50-years-ago-1.200063>

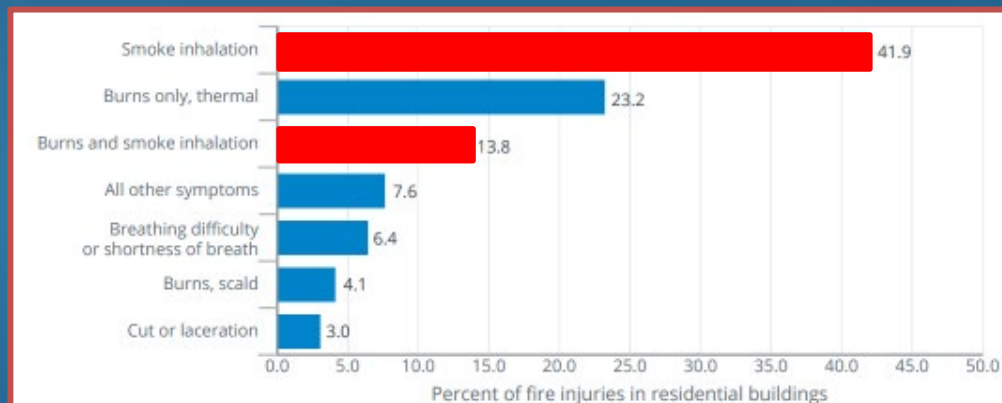


# CIVILIAN FIRE FATALITIES & INJURIES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS BY PRIMARY SYMPTOM (2017-2019)<sup>1</sup>

## Fatalities



## Injuries



The most common cause of death in fires is the *inhalation of noxious gases rather than thermal injury*<sup>2</sup>



1. (n.d.). U.S. Fire Administration. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/V2114.pdf> 2. Jones, J. L. (1997). Smoke inhalation: Cyanide poisoning in fire victims. *The American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 5(4), 311-312. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0736-4679\(97\)00360-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0736-4679(97)00360-3)

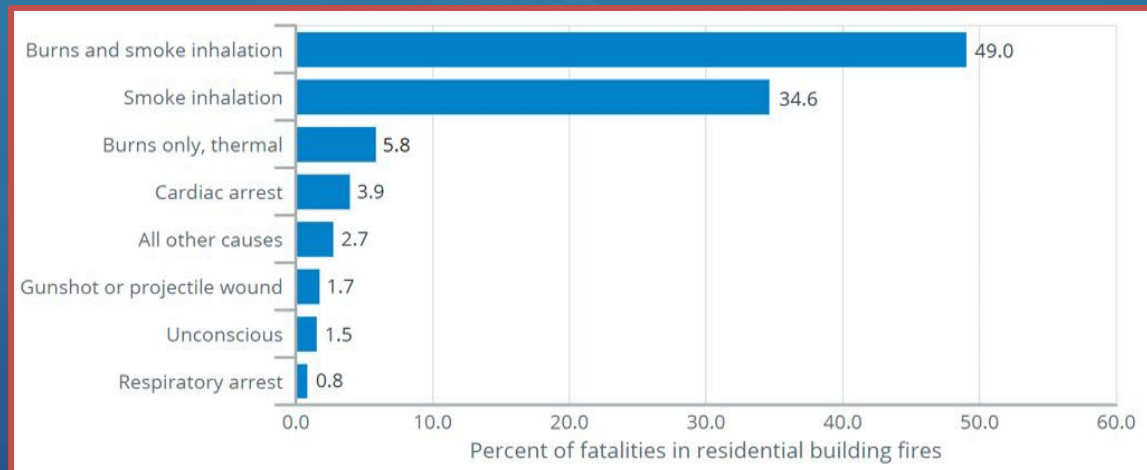


# HAZARDS (NO ANTIDOTE YET)



# HAZARDS – WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES?

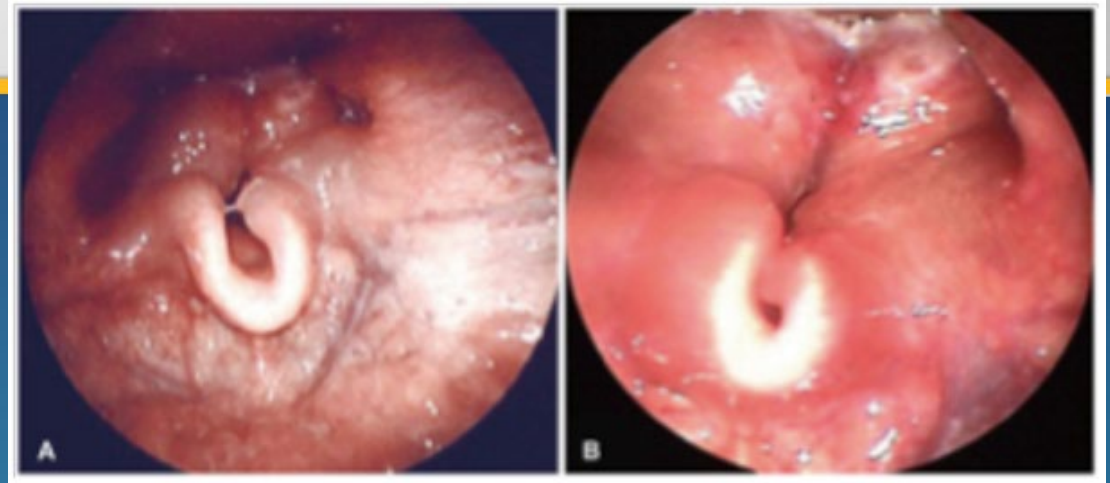
- Airway Burns
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Cyanide (CN)





# AIRWAY

- Expect difficulty
- Time is not your friend
- Bougie, Video if available, prep for surgical airway
- Goal is cuffed tube in Trachea



# CARBON MONOXIDE MONITORING

- In the studies conducted to submit the device for FDA clearance, the CO-oximeter has exhibited accurate readings for COHb values between 0 and 40%.



Cone DC, MacMillan DS, Van Gelder C, et al. Noninvasive fireground assessment of carboxyhemoglobin levels in firefighters. Prehosp Emerg Care. 2005;9:8–13.



# THE TOXIC TWINS- PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Smoke Inhalation

Hydrogen Cyanide (CN)

Produced from incomplete combustion of *nitrogen-containing materials*

Difficult to detect



Neurotoxicity



Inhibition of Cellular Respiration



Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Produced from incomplete combustion of hydrocarbons or fuels

Easy to detect



Carboxyhemoglobin formation

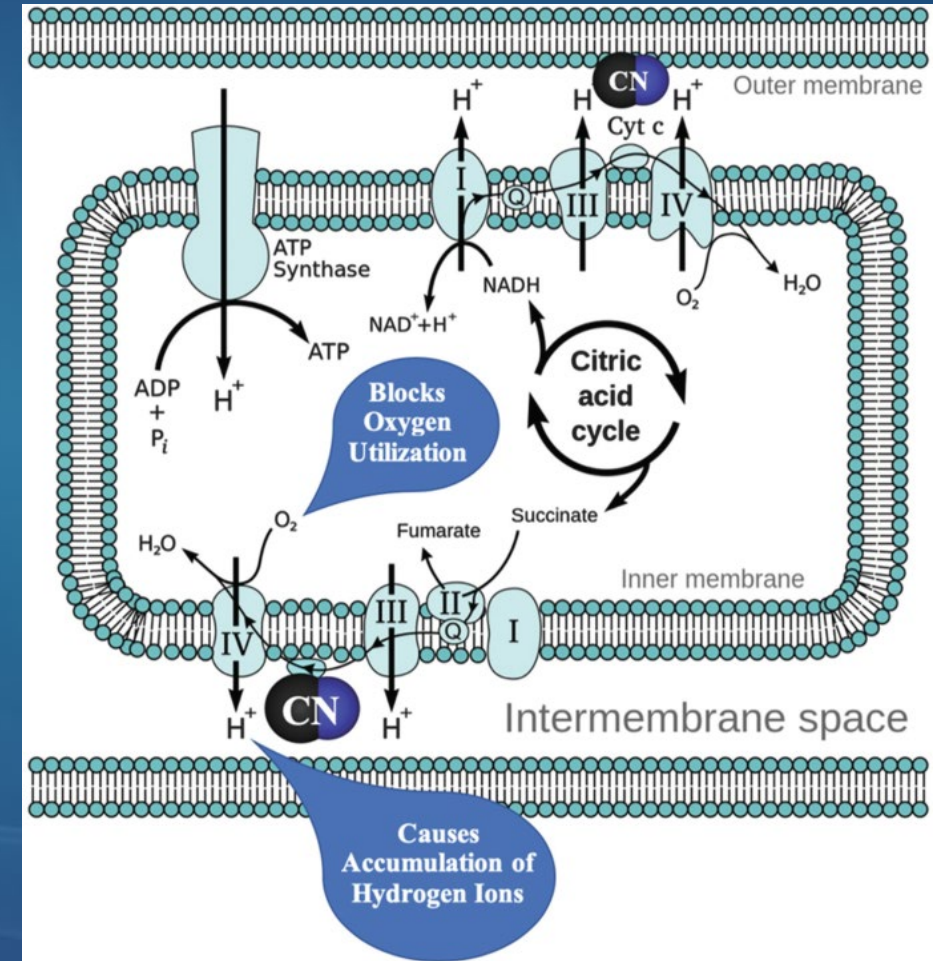
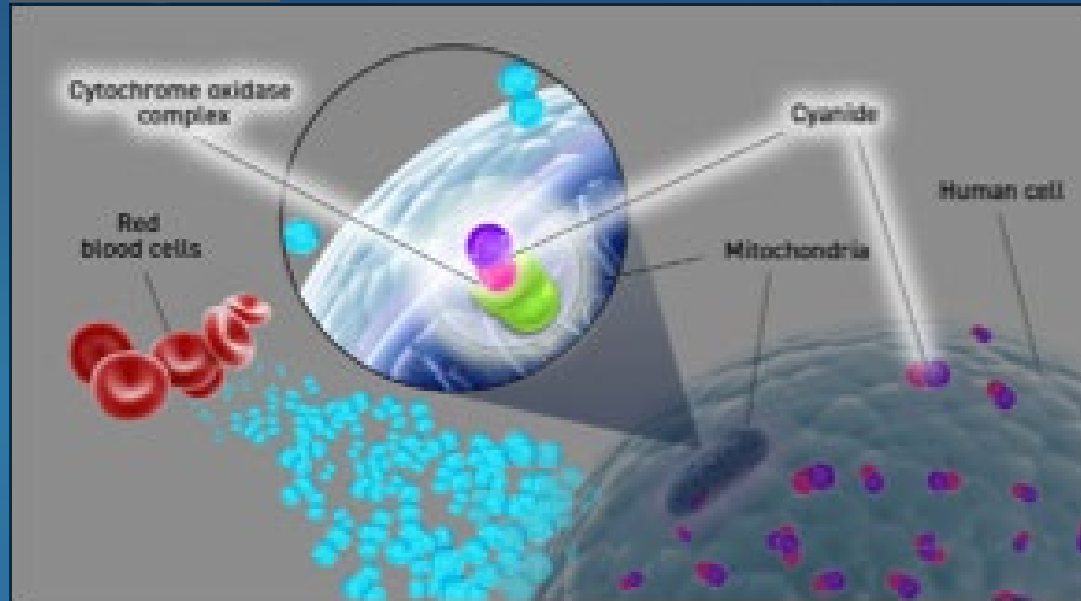


Inhibition of Cellular Respiration



1. Hoffman, R. S., Nelson, L. S., Goldfrank, L. R., Howland, M. A., Lewin, N. A., & Smith, S. W. (2019). *Goldfrank's toxicologic emergencies* (11th ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.  
& Gladwin, M. T. (2015). 2. Shining a light on carbon monoxide poisoning. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 192(10), 1119-1117. <https://doi.org/10.1164/rccm.201505-1579ed>

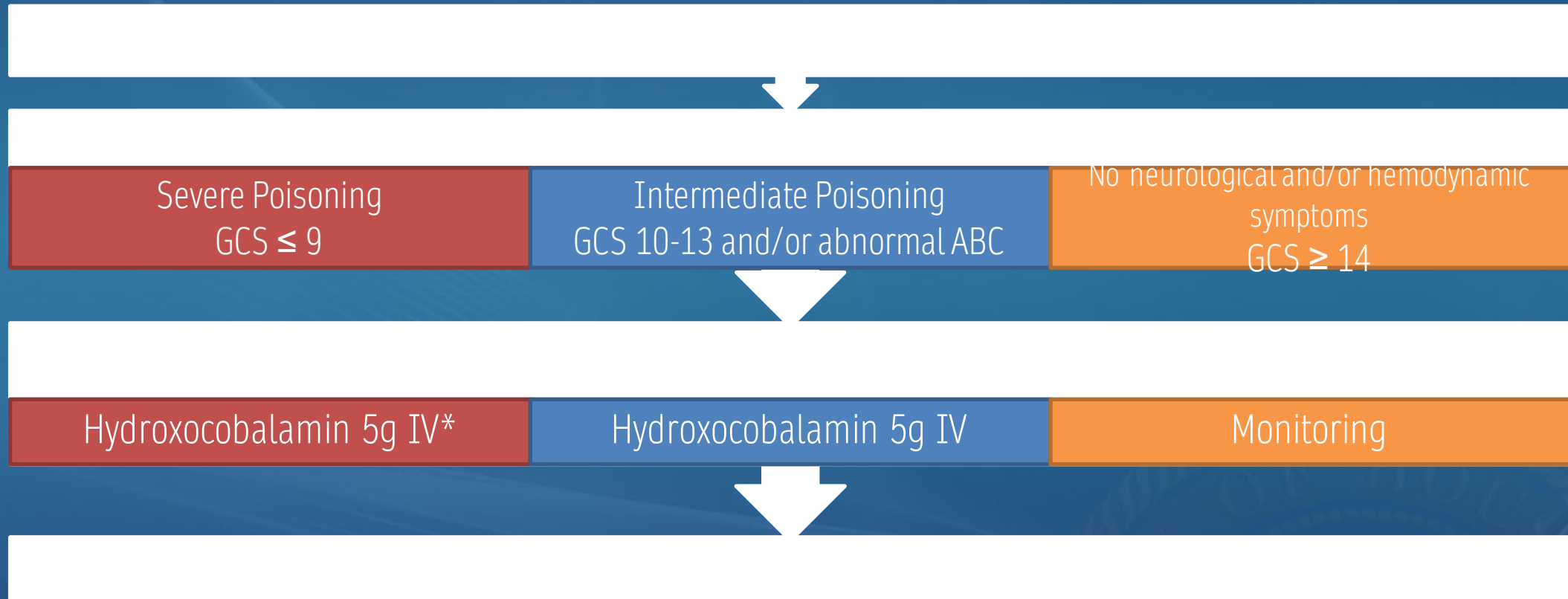
# WHY IS CYANIDE BAD?





# THE TOXIC TWINS- MANAGEMENT

## *Cyanide Poisoning by fire smoke inhalation: A European Expert Consensus* Cyanide Poisoning by Fire Smoke Inhalation Prehospital Algorithm



GCS= Glasgow Coma Scale, ABC= airway, breathing, circulation, IV= intravenous, g= gram, O2= oxygen

**\*If cardiac arrest, administer 10 grams hydroxocobalamin IV**

Adapted from: Anseeuw, K., Delvau, N., Burillo-Putze, G., De Iaco, F., Geldner, G., Holmström, P. et al. (2013). Cyanide poisoning by fire smoke inhalation. *European Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 20(1), 2-3. <https://doi.org/10.1097/edh.0000000000000071>

# IDENTIFY, ANALYZE, DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT

- Cuffed Tube in Trachea (ASAP)
- Monitor CO
- 100% Oxygen
- CN Antidote (Hydroxocobalamin)
  - ▶ Need on Front line
  - ▶ Eagle Survey – Most large systems have
- Review your data

