

FIRST AID

These general rules are the basis of proper first aid for contact with sulfuric acid:

First aid must be started immediately, since delay can result in serious injury.

Call a physician as soon as possible, no matter how slight the injury appears to be.

All contaminated clothing must be removed immediately. Flush affected areas of the body with copious quantities of water until all traces of sulfuric acid are removed.

Do not neutralize the acid with mild alkaline solutions until all areas of contact have been thoroughly washed with plentiful amounts of running water.

In case of severe or extensive burns, shock symptoms -- rapid pulse, sweating, collapse -- might appear at any time. When they do, place the patient on his back and keep him warm, not hot, until a physician arrives. Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious patient.

In case of eye contact with sulfuric acid:

Wash the eyes with copious quantities of running water for 15 minutes. Hold the eye lids apart to make sure the water washes all tissues of the surface of the eyes and lids. Do not use hot water.

A physician, preferably an eye specialist, must be called immediately. If he does not arrive within 15 minutes, eye irrigation should be resumed for a second 15-minute period. After the first irrigation, two or three drops of 0.5% pontocaine solution or equally effective aqueous topical anesthetic may be placed in the eyes by a qualified first aid man. Do not use any other solution or ointment.

If sulfuric acid has been taken internally, call a physician immediately. Do not induce vomiting. Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious patient.

If the patient is conscious, have him wash out his mouth with copious quantities of water. Then have him drink milk, preferably mixed with the whites of eggs. If milk and egg whites are not available, have the patient drink as much water as possible.

Any accidental contact with sulfuric acid, whether external or internal should be described to the physician in detail at the time that he is called. He should be given the exact location of the patient.

Remove to fresh air.

Avoid repeated contact with skin and repeated breathing of vapors.