

# Cal/OSHA “Recordable” Guidelines & Definition of First Aid

**C**al/OSHA defines “first aid” as any one-time treatment, and any followup visit for the purpose of observation of minor scratches, cuts, burns, splinters, or other minor industrial injuries, which do not ordinarily require medical care. This one-time treatment, and followup visit for the purpose of observation, is considered first aid even though provided by a physician or registered professional personnel. *Labor Code 5401 (a).*

## Cal/OSHA “RECORDABLE” GUIDELINES:

Cal/OSHA “recordable” are not considered “first-aid.”

- All occupational fatalities, regardless of the time between the injury and the death, or the length of illness.
- All occupational illnesses, regardless of treatment or severity, (see the back of the Log for examples of occupational illnesses).
- Lost work day injuries—a case in which the injury caused absence from work and/ or restricted activity beyond the day of the injury. Time spent obtaining medical treatment is not defined as “lost-time.”
- Injuries without lost work days involving:
  - a. absence from work and /or restricted work activity on the day of the injury only, other than the time spent visiting the doctor or the clinic,
  - b. loss of consciousness,
  - c. termination of employment,
  - d. permanent transfer to another job,
- Medical Treatment:

The following are generally considered medical treatments. (*Work -related injuries for which the type of treatment was provided or should have been provided are almost always “recordable.”*)

- Treatment for infection,
- Application of antiseptics during second or subsequent visits to medical personnel,
- Treatment of second or third degree burn (s),
- Application of butterfly adhesive dressing(s),
- Application of sutures (stitches),
- Removal of foreign bodies embedded in eye,
- Removal of foreign bodies from wound, if procedure is complicated because of depth of embedment, size, or location,
- Use of prescription medication (except a single dose administered on the first visit for minor injury or discomfort,
- Application of hot or cold compress(es) during second or subsequent visits to medical personnel,

- Cutting away dead skin (surgical debridement),
- Application of heat therapy during second or subsequent visits to medical personnel,
- Use of whirlpool bath therapy during second or subsequent visit to medical personnel,
- Positive x-ray diagnosis (fractures, broken bones, etc.),
- Use of hot or cold soaking therapy during second or subsequent visit to medical personnel,
- Admission to a hospital or equivalent medical facility for treatment or prolonged observation.

The fact that an “Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Illness” has been submitted to your worker's compensation insurance carrier does not necessarily make the case “recordable” for Cal/OSHA.

### **Cal/OSHA NON-RECORDABLE “FIRST-AID” GUIDELINES:**

#### **First-Aid Treatment:**

The following are generally considered “first-aid” treatment (e.g., one-time treatment and subsequent observation of minor injuries) and need not be recorded if the work-related injury does not involve loss of consciousness, restriction of work or motion, or transfer to another job:

- Application of antiseptics during the first visit to medical personnel,
- Treatment of first degree burn(s),
- Application of bandages during any visit to medical personnel,
- Use of elastic bandages during the first visit to medical personnel,
- Removal of foreign bodies from wound, if procedure is uncomplicated, and is, for example, by tweezers or other simple technique,
- Soaking therapy on the initial visit to medical personnel or removal of bandages by soaking,
- Use of non-prescription medications and administration of a single dose of prescription medication on the first visit, for minor injury or discomfort,
- Application of hot and cold compress(es) during the first visit to medical personnel,
- Application of ointments to abrasion to prevent drying or cracking,
- Application of heat therapy during the first visit to medical personnel,
- Negative X-ray, diagnosis,
- Brief observation of injury during visit to medical personnel.

The administration of a tetanus or booster shot, by itself, is not considered a medical treatment. However, injuries requiring a tetanus shot may be recordable for other reasons.

Injuries or illnesses that are not work-related are not recordable for Cal/OSHA. [PE]

