



# Burn Awareness Week

BC's Burn Awareness Week is sponsored by the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund

## Burn Prevention Safety Tips

For Teachers and Parents of children from Pre-School to Grade Seven

**Harry the Hydrant says:**

### **Matches and Lighters are Tools, not Toys!**

**Matches and Lighters in the hands of children are a major concern in every community across BC. Playing with fire causes millions of dollars in property damage, and thousands of burn injuries and deaths annually.**

**Matches and Lighters are Tools, not Toys:** Reinforce the concept that matches and lighters are tools for adults. Like a saw or a kitchen knife, the match is a tool with specific uses, such as lighting a stove or candle or starting a campfire. Discuss *GOOD* fires and *BAD* fires and how matches and lighters can be used in a responsible manner. Instruct young children to tell an adult if they find any matches or lighters.

Discuss strategies for children on how they can get out of situations that involve fire setting and peer pressure. Define issues such as arson and the law, children taking responsibility for fire-setting actions, paying restitution and making good choices.

**Safely Store Flammable Liquids:** Children should know that gasoline and paint thinner are examples of common flammable liquids. Never use flammable liquids near possible sources of ignition. Always store away from heat and ignition sources. Flammable liquids should never be stored in the house. They should be kept in safety containers and clearly labeled.

**Vapours are Flammable:** Flammable and combustible liquids vapourize readily and ignite easily when they come in contact with flame, heat or spark. Vapours from flammable liquids may ignite near household appliances such as the pilot light on the water heater. Flammable and combustible liquids are used to fuel many devices around the home. Safety when refueling a gasoline-powered device is essential. Techniques include shutting the device off prior to adding fuel, allowing it to cool, using a funnel to prevent spillage, and never smoking while handling fuel. Using other flammables around the home requires caution so that no open flames are in the area of use.

**Education and early intervention can eliminate the majority of fire injuries and deaths caused by children playing with matches and lighters. Local Fire Departments and community health professionals can help teachers and parents deal with children who play with fire. For more information please refer to "Children's Natural Curiosity with Fire" document in the Introduction Menu of the Burn Awareness Week site at [www.burnfund.org/BAW](http://www.burnfund.org/BAW).**

