



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 Kindergarten to Grade Seven

Harry the Hydrant says: Prevent Burns Before They Happen!

**Hot water scalds are the leading cause of burns to young children.
The vast majority of these burn injuries are preventable.**

Hot Water and Steam Scalds: When using water taps, turn COLD water on first. Then add HOT water and adjust the temperature. Reverse the order when turning water off: HOT water first, then the COLD water. Always test young children's bath and sink water before using. When bathing children, never leave them unattended as they may turn on the hot water or slip in your absence.

Be very careful when drinking HOT liquids, especially around children. At 60°C (140°F) it takes less than five seconds to get a third degree (full thickness) burn. Young children and older adults, by virtue of their thinner skin, sustain severe burns at lower temperatures and in less time than an adult.

Types of Burns: Burns may be caused in several ways; contact with flame; scalding, liquids or steam; hot objects; chemicals; live electrical conductors; or ultraviolet rays. Teach children the importance of knowing the dangers of playing near burn or scald dangers.

Flame Burns: Happen most frequently when clothing ignites from a single ignition source such as match, gasoline, stove or other open flame.

Scalds: Caused by hot liquids or steam such as hot liquids spilled in kitchen or hot tap water.

Contact Burns: Result from touching or leaning on a hot object such as radiators, stoves, heaters, or heat-producing small appliances.

Chemical Burns: Occur most frequently in work-related situations such as spilled battery acid.

Electrical Burns: Result from contact with live electricity such as climbing high-tension wires or chewing on electrical cords.

Fire and burn injuries are the second leading cause of accidental death in children aged one to four years, and the third leading cause of injury and death for those aged one to eighteen. By targeting children in the high risk group of ages six to twelve, the Burn Awareness Week program is designed to teach kids to be responsible for their own safety, and make their families aware of potentially harmful situations.

Watch "Hot Water Scalds" animation video on the Burn Fund website at www.burnfund.org/BAW.

