

February 2017

Theme: Burn Awareness and Prevention

Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns

Week 2 – Fire Safety for Children

Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Week 4 – Candle with Care

Events:

National Burn Awareness Week Feb. 5th-11th

Fire Commission Meeting

West Virginia ESCAPe 2017 – Emergency Services Conference at Pipestem

Educator Tip: Kitchen display for cooking fire safety: Mistakes in the kitchen are the leading cause of fires nationwide. This is a key issue in any community. Ask a local appliance dealer if they have any stove tops they've used for displays and plan to get rid of. Check with people who are upgrading to new appliances; often they junk the old ones. You can use the whole appliance or just the stovetop on a table. Get a pan, a lid and a pot holder and you'll have an interactive display. I'm not a big fan of starting a fire to extinguish in front of people unless you're set up with safety features for that specific action, but you can talk through how to handle a fire in a pan and stress the importance of having a lid nearby.

National Fire Service History

- February 5, 1898 - Boston Building Collapse - 6 FF's Killed
- February 7, 1904 - Great Baltimore Fire
- February 13, 1909 - WI Wall Collapse kills 6 FF's
- February 3, 1939 - NY Building Collapse 9 FF's Killed
- February 16, 1955 - Baltimore Building Collapse Kills 6 FF's
- February 14, 1958 - NY Building Collapse Kills 6 FF's
- February 26, 1993 - World Trade Center Bombing
- February 20, 2003 - RI Station Nightclub Fire (100 Deaths)

NFPA Education Resources:

Preventing Scalds and Burns

A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

Scald burns can be caused by any hot liquid, fluid, or vapor, including hot tap water, overheated beverages, steam, and hot oil.

Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3–5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

Prepackaged microwavable soups are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over, pouring hot liquid (and noodles) on the person.

Facts and figures

- There were 70,800 scald non-fire burn injuries reported to hospital emergency rooms in 2012, up from 68,700 in 2011.
- Scald burns accounted for almost one-third (31%) of all non-fire burn injuries reported to hospital emergency rooms in 2012.

Scald Safety

- Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water.
- Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

Fire Safety for Children

- Young firesetters cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year. Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters, and are most likely to die in them.
- Children experience fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot is fire or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire.
- Firestarting happens when children begin to experiment with fire using matches and lighters. Many fires happen when young children are left alone, even for a short period of time, and have access to matches and lighters. Parents must have clear rules and consequences about fire misuse.
- Grown-ups can help keep fire out of the hands of children.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.
- Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision.
- Teach young children and school-age children to tell a grown-up if they see matches or lighters. Children need to understand that fire is difficult to control, it is fast and can hurt as soon as it touches you.
- A child with an interest in fire can lead to fire starting and result in repeated firesetting behavior.
- It is important for grown-ups to discourage unsupervised fire starts.
- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children; they may imitate you.
- Never assign a young child any tasks that involve the use of a lighter or matches (lighting candles, bringing a lighter to an adult to light a cigarette or the fireplace, etc).
- If your child expresses curiosity about fire or has been playing with fire, calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Use only lighters designed with child-resistant features.

Curious kids set fires

- Children 14 and under make up 10-15 percent of all fire deaths.
- Fifty-two percent of all child fire deaths involve those under 5. These children are usually unable to escape from a fire independently.
- At home, children often play with fire in bedrooms, in closets and under beds to avoid detection. These locations just so happen to contain a lot of flammable materials.
- Too often, child fire-setters are not given proper guidance and supervision by parents and teachers. Consequently, they repeat their fire-setting behavior.

Kitchen Grease Safety

Oil is a key ingredient found in the majority of today's kitchens. Whether a recipe calls for frying or sautéing, we include oil in almost all of our daily cooking. When using any of the many oils to prepare your meals like olive, canola, corn or soybean, consider the following safety tips when cooking:

- Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.
- Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.
- Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sautéing.
- Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.
- Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn

off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on the fire.

- If the fire does not go out or you don't feel comfortable sliding a lid over the pan, get everyone out of your home. Call the fire department from outside.

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. Being mindful while you cook, however, can go a long way to helping prevent these fires.

Cooking fires by the numbers

Based on 2010-2014 annual averages:

- Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries, causing 46% of home fires that resulted in 19% of the home fire deaths and 44% of the injuries.**
- Two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires started with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.
- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but clothing ignitions led to 18% of the home cooking equipment fire deaths.
- Ranges or cooktops accounted for the majority (62%) of home cooking fire incidents.
- Unattended equipment was a factor in one-third (33%) of reported home cooking fires and half (49%) of the associated deaths..
- Frying dominates the cooking fire problem.
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

Source: NFPA's ["Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment"](#) report by Marty Ahrens, Nov. 2016.

Source:** NFPA's ["Home Structure Fires"](#) report by Marty Ahrens, September 2016.

*Homes include one- and two-family homes, apartments (regardless of ownership), and manufactured housing.

Candle with Care

From 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 9,300 home structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused 86 deaths, 827 injuries and \$374 million in direct property damage.

Facts and figures

During the five-year period of 2009-2013:

Source: NFPA "Home Candle Fires" report (December 2015)

- Candles caused 3% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 6% of home fire injuries, and 5% of the direct property damage in home fires.
- Roughly one-third (36%) of home candle fires started in bedrooms. These fires caused 32% of the associated deaths and 47% of the associated injuries.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 11% percent of the home candle fires and 30% of the associated deaths.
- On average, 25 home candle fires were reported per day.
- More than half (58%) of home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left or came too close to the candle.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.

Safety tips

- Remember that a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Think about using flame-less candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

Religious candle safety

- Lit candles are used in religious services, in places of worship, and in the home. Whether you are using one candle, or more than one on a candelabra, kinara, or menorah, make sure you use them safely.
- Candles should be placed in a sturdy candle holder.
- Handheld candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.
- When lighting candles at a candle lighting service, have the person with the unlit candle dip their candle into the flame of the lit candle.
- Lit candles should not be placed in windows where a blind or curtain could catch fire.
- Candles placed on, or near tables, altars, or shrines, must be watched by an adult.
- Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- If a candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.