

## Children Playing With Fire

Each year, thousands of children are injured or killed in home fires, and 40 percent of them are under age five. They happen to be a primary group of those at high risk for death from a burn injury. Prevent the unthinkable in practicing fire safety with children.

### SAFETY TIPS:

- The recommended temperature for the young child's bath water is 90-120 F.
- Turn all pot handles inward so children cannot pull them down.
- Replace long cords with short ones; keep long cord appliances toward the back of counter tops.
- Never leave hot liquids or food unattended or at the edge of a table or counter to be pulled down by a toddler or young child.
- Youngsters should not be allowed to pour or handle hot liquids/food.
- Keep children at a safe distance while pouring or drinking hot liquids.
- Place child in crib or playpen while preparing food. Rushing and handling of hot liquids and food is a deadly combination with a toddler underfoot.
- Seat a child at the dining table only after all the food has been served and placed far from the child's reach.
- Never leave young children unattended, especially in an area where food is being prepared.
- Be certain that foods and liquids are sufficiently cooled before giving them to the young child.
- To prevent contact burns, keep all hot appliances away from a young child's reach.
- In the bathroom, dial down hot water temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Do not use the bath time as a playtime or the bath area as a play area.
- Clearly mark the HOT water setting on single valve units; turn the valve COLD setting after filling the tub.
- Keep lamps away from baby's crib where the child might be able to pull it down, causing a fire.
- Use COOL - MIST vaporizers and keep appliances at a safe distance from the child.
- NEVER leave an infant on an adult bed/mattress close to radiators or space heaters.
- NEVER leave a child alone in any room with electrical cords plugged into wall sockets.
- Keep all lighters and matches contained properly and out of reach of young children.
- Teach children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys.
- Instruct children to "TELL" an adult if they know if lighters and matches are found lying about so that the adults can collect and properly store or dispose of them.
- Teach children the stop, drop, and roll procedure and simple home fire escape behaviors.
- Use outlet covers on all electrical outlets.

### FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Because children may lack the ability to escape life-threatening situations and the ability to tolerate the physical stress of post-burn injury, they are one of the primary age groups at high risk for death from burn injury.
- Children under age five are twice as likely as the rest of us to die in a fire.
- High incidence of scald injury in the home.
- Over 70 percent of all scald injuries in infants could be prevented.
- Most burn victims injured by hot liquids are children under age three.
- The most likely areas of the house for injury to take place: kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom.

## SAFETY TIPS & INFO



- The leading cause of fire deaths among the very young is children playing with fire, primarily with matches and lighters, causing three of every ten pre-school fire deaths.
- Children as young as 18 months have started very serious, devastating fires.