

## What They Need to Know



This issue, along with additional activities and online resources is available at [www.burnprevention.org/safety-lines-march-2015](http://www.burnprevention.org/safety-lines-march-2015)

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*Preventing fire and burns requires that the whole family participate in making a home safe. Parents need to take an active role in teaching their youngsters to avoid dangers that can cause burns; children need to learn how to react in a dangerous situation like a home fire. Everyone in the family should take an active role in practicing home safety, and it's never too early to talk to young ones about fire and burn safety!*

***This issue of safety lines covers the important fire and burn safety messages that even young children should know!***

### ♦ What's Hot, What's Not?

One of the best ways to prevent burns in young children is to teach them "What's Hot and What's Not".

- ♦ Write the word "Hot" on an index card and the words "Not Hot" or "Cool" on another card. Walk through your house and point out various items that could be hot (stove, fireplace, heater, hair straightener, etc.) and things that are not hot (chair, pillow, table, etc.)
- ♦ Allow your child to hold the cards and hold up either "hot" or "not hot" for each item, and talk about their answers. Explain that hot items can cause burns and should never be touched.



### Good Fire, Bad Fire

Talk to your children about the three things that make a fire "good" -

- 1) *It must be started by a grown-up*
- 2) *It must be started safely*
- 3) *It must be for a good reason*

- ♦ Examples of good fires can include fires used for cooking or to heat your home, a birthday candle, and camp fires.
- ♦ Examples of bad fires are house fires, fires started in trash cans, and forest fires.

### Never Play With Fire

- ♦ Many studies suggest that curiosity about fire starts even before the age of three. Children playing with fire account for a large number of childhood deaths from fire each year. ***Children in homes with smokers are almost twice as likely to experiment with fire than those from non smoking homes!***
- ♦ From a very young age, it is important to teach children a healthy respect for fire. **Be a good role model** and use fire responsibly. Keep matches and lighters locked up and out of the reach of small children.

### Matches & Lighters—Tools , not Toys!

It is important to stress with young children that matches and lighters are **TOOLS** for adults to use, not **TOYS**. Novelty lighters can be especially confusing for young children because they are designed to look like toys. While you can keep the lighters in your home locked up, it's important to teach young children what to do if they find them elsewhere:

- ♦ If you find matches or lighters, do not pick them up—tell an adult!
- ♦ If you see a friend playing with matches or a lighter, tell an adult!



## Firefighters Are Our Friends!

- ◆ Firefighters in full turnout gear can look scary to young children—especially with their breathing apparatus covering their face.
- ◆ In the event of a house fire, which is a scary experience already, if children are not familiar with what a fire fighter looks and sounds like, it can cause them to panic and hide.
- ◆ Teach young children what fire fighters look like, and sound like with their mask on. Teach them that they are there to help, and to **never hide** from them because it will make it harder for them to find you and help get you out of a burning building.



## Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, Call

If a child's clothing catches on fire, it is important that they know how to:

- ◆ **STOP!** Stop what you are doing, right away.
- ◆ **DROP!** Drop to the ground. Don't worry about hurting yourself or getting dirty.
- ◆ **ROLL!** Roll back and forth over the flame until the fire goes out.

You should also teach the child that once the fire is out, you should run **COOL WATER** over the burn.



## Calling 9-1-1

- ◆ Talk to your children about what an emergency is (fire, accident, medical emergency) and what is not an emergency.
- ◆ Teach them that if there is an emergency, the number you call to get help is 9-1-1.

## Smoke Alarms

- ◆ It is important for children to not only know what a smoke alarm is, why we have them and how to make sure they are working properly, but it is also crucial to teach your children **WHAT THEY SOUND LIKE** - in a house fire things will be chaotic and loud, and the loud beeping from a smoke alarm may scare children even more if they are not familiar with the noise. Allow your children to **help you test your alarms every month** so they become aware of what the alarm sounds like.
- ◆ Next, teach them what it means, and **WHAT THEY SHOULD DO** when they hear the smoke alarm—plan and practice your family's escape, and make sure your children know where to go outside for your meeting spot!



## **NEW WITH THIS ISSUE!**

**DOWNLOADS** and other additional resources to use with the activities in this issue can be found in the online version,

at [www.burnprevention.org/safety-lines-march-2015](http://www.burnprevention.org/safety-lines-march-2015).



Included are:

- "Hot/ Cool" cards and other downloadable activity sheets
- Fire Safety Scavenger Hunt (this month's classroom activity!)
- "Firefighters Are Friends" turnout gear photos and video
- Songs & Poems
- Videos



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