



Village of Skokie

January 27, 2010

For Immediate Release **Public Information Division**

National Burn Awareness Week

National Burn Awareness Week is the first full week of February. Each year, approximately 114,000 children under age 14 are treated for fire and burn injuries and 500 children die to unintentional fire and burn-related injuries.

Scald burns that are caused by hot liquid or steam are the most common cause of burn injuries to children. Hot tap water accounts for nearly one in four of all scald burns among children.

The Skokie Fire Department wants to remind parents and caregivers to:

- Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Check bath water before placing your child in it. When using tap water, turn the cold water on first then add hot water and adjust the temperature.
- Be careful while drinking hot liquids around children. At 140 degrees Fahrenheit it only takes less than five seconds for a child to receive a third degree burn.
- Establish a three-foot "kid-free zone" around your stove area. Mark the floor with tape if needed.
- Keep all electrical cords out of reach, especially those that are connected to coffee pots and other appliances.
- Teach and practice "Stop, Drop & Roll". If clothing catches fire, stop where you are, drop to the ground, roll over and over until the fire is out.
- Always supervise young children.
- Remember to test smoke detectors and replace batteries every six months. If your detector is over 10-years old it is time to replace it.

The worst kind of burn is one that could have been prevented.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-982-5340.

Released by Public Information Division
Janelle Silva
847/933-8257

Village Hall

5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077

Phone (847) 673-0500
Fax (847) 673-0525

www.skokie.org
SkokieVision Municipal Cable
1660 AM Skokie

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