

Maryland State Fire Marshal

News Release

Martin O'Malley
Governor

William E. Barnard
State Fire Marshal



NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS WEEK

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PIKESVILLE, MD (February 7, 2011) – National Burn Awareness Week is an opportunity to remind all Marylanders of basic safety measures to be mindful of in order to prevent burn injuries year round. According to a news release from Shriners International:

- **95% of scald burns occur in the home**
- **Nearly 16,000 children under the age of 5 are treated in U.S. hospitals every year for scald burns**
- **Approximately 65% of children under age 4 hospitalized for burn injuries were scalded by hot water**
- **More than 60% of residential fires that cause the death of a child occur in homes without working smoke alarms**

The following safety tips will help protect you and those you love from needless burn injuries in the home and abroad:

- Teach your children that matches and lighters are tools and not toys. Instruct them to not touch them and tell an adult if they find them within reach.
- Store all chemicals and cleaners out of reach of children or install child-proof locking mechanisms on the cabinet doors.
- Do not leave lit candles unattended.
- Replace damaged electrical cords on appliances.
- Keep all hot items and anything electrical out of reach of children and away from edges of counters and tables.
- Establish a kid-free zone where young children can be watched but remain safely away from where cooking is being done.

- When using the stove, keep handles turned inward to eliminate being easily knocked to the floor.
- Do not handle hot items while holding young children.
- The water in a child's bath should not exceed 104 degrees. Set your water heater at 120 degrees or below to help prevent scald injuries.
- Before placing a child in the tub, test the water temperature by moving your hand through the water. If the water feels hot, it is too hot for a child.
- Always supervise children in the bath.

In addition, ensure you have properly placed and working smoke alarms; plan and practice your home fire escape plan and know two ways out of every room and include a specific location outside to meet.

“Children rely on our ability to protect them from burn injuries through our knowledge and experience. Please take the necessary steps required to prevent these horrible injuries from occurring in your home by following the safety tips provided,” stated State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard.

For more safety tips located in online resources please check the following websites: www.firemarshal.state.md.us; www.safekids.org; www.fema.gov; www.burnprevention.org; www.homesafetycouncil.org.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of state government dedicated to helping protect Marylanders from fire and explosions through a comprehensive program of education, inspection and investigation. For other fire safety tips please contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 1-800-525-3124 or log on our website at: www.firemarshal.state.md.us.

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