

# Environmental Health and Safety

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## Burn Awareness

### Did you Know...

450,000 burns were treated in 2013.

1,100 children die each year from fire and burns.

Most burns occur at home. Most often in the kitchen or bathroom.

70% of campfire burns are caused by embers rather than flames.

Fire pits retain heat for up to 12 hours after being extinguished. Hot enough to cause a severe burn.

Gasoline is an extremely flammable liquid and vapor; the fumes are capable of ignition up to 12 feet from a pooled source.

The average annual cost of scald injuries is \$44 million.



Whether cooking at home or starting a campfire, burns are a possibility in our day to day lives. While most burn related injuries occur at home, it is best to use caution outside of the home as well. Burns can occur in the car, at work, or visiting friends.

Injuries often occur by accident and can be prevented. Awareness can be the best protection against burns. Use caution when working around items that are or may be hot. Always use appropriate personal protective equipment when working with chemicals or other items that may cause burns.

Setting your water heater temperature to no higher than 120°F (48°C), can help protect against scalding burns at home.

Creating a “no kid zone” in the kitchen around stoves, ovens, and hot items can help keep children burn free.

### **Do:**

Use caution when cooking with grease.

Use oven mitts to handle hot pots and pans.

Use travel mugs with tight fitting lids for hot drinks.

Build fires downwind and at least 15 feet from tents.

Talk to children about campfire safety.

Fill gas-powered equipment when engines are cool.

### **Don't:**

Allow appliance cords to dangle over the counter edge.

Leave food cooking on the stove unattended.

Heat your home using a kitchen stove.

Leave a fire unattended—EVER!

Throw anything other than wood into the fire.

Store gasoline in the house.

### **If a burn does occur...**

- 1) Cool the burn with COOL (not cold) water to stop the burning process.
- 2) Remove all clothing and jewelry around the injured area.
- 3) Cover the area with clean and dry, loose bandages.
- 4) Seek medical attention.
- 5) Call 911 for serious burns.



### **Resources**

[EHS Website](#)

[Burn Prevention Network](#)

[American Burn Association](#)

[2013 US Burn Incidence and Treatment Fact Sheet](#)

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**Don't learn safety by accident**