

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Burn Awareness

The first full week in February has been designated as National Burn Awareness week.

Between 2011 and 2015, approximately 486,000 fire or burn injuries were seen at emergency rooms. Most of the burn injuries treated in burn centers occur in the home (73%) followed by work (8%).

To prevent fire or burn injuries:

- Use gasoline outdoors only, and store in cool, well ventilated areas.
- Do not fill gasoline into a portable container while it is located inside the vehicle or pickup truck bed; set it out on the ground first.
- Start charcoal grills only with fluid labeled as “charcoal starter fluid”.
- Have a designated sober adult light all legal fireworks.
- Never hold lit fireworks in your hand; don’t point or throw lit fireworks at anyone.
- Be cautious if you have a family member on oxygen ... smoking is the leading cause of burns, reported fires, & death involving home oxygen. Stay 10 feet away from stoves, fireplaces, candles, electric razors ... anything that could cause a spark.

Tragically, almost one-quarter (24%) of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15. As a parent, one of the first words taught to a child is “HOT”, meant to convey that there is danger, stay back, and don’t touch that.

How to help protect children from burns:

- Don’t carry or hold a child while cooking on the stove.
- Keep pot and pan handles turned toward the back side of the stove top & use rear burners when possible.
- To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer’s recommended setting.
- Don’t leave children unattended near BBQ grills, fireplaces, bonfires or fire pits.
- Educate children in an age-appropriate manner about the dangers of fire play.
- Instead of fireworks, consider safer alternatives such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters and other fire sources in a safe and careful manner.

If a burn injury does happen...

1. Cool the burn with COOL (not cold) water to stop the burning process.
2. Remove all clothing and jewelry from the injured area.
3. Cover the area with a clean sheet or loose bandages.
4. Seek medical attention.

For more info contact – Leslie Woolington
MAFES /MSU-EXTENSION
Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control
(662) 325-3204

Sources:
<http://ameriburn.org>
<https://www.safekids.org>