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Search



Hazelwood Fire Activities

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[back](#)

Scald Burns

The Hazelwood Fire Department wants people to take precautions against the possibility of children receiving scald burns in the home.

"Every single scald burn injury is preventable," says Randy Getz, fire department spokesman. "The most effective way to prevent scald burns in the kitchen or bathroom is through ADEQUATE and CONTINUOUS supervision."

The Hazelwood Fire Department offers the following facts about scald burns and tips to help keep children safe in the home:

- *Children under 5 are at the highest risk for burns caused by hot fluids.
- *Most scald burns happen in the kitchen when fluids spill from the stove or microwave, as well as on or around the kitchen table, counters and sink. Some ways to keep hot fluids away from children are: appropriate supervision, keep children away from "risk areas," avoid the use of table-cloths and place mats, put hot items on the table only when adults are ready to be seated, test all foods before feeding a baby, cook on the rear of the stove.
- *The bathroom is the second highest risk area for scald burn injuries in the home, which are directly related to the temperature of the water delivered from the water heater.
- *Water heater thermostats should be set at a maximum of 120 degrees F. If it is not possible to reduce the water heater temperature, use of a thermostatically controlled valve/faucet should be considered.
- *The best way to test bath water is to submerge the hand, spread the fingers and move the hand vigorously in the water. If the water feels uncomfortable to the hand, it is too hot for a child.
- *Generally, babies should not be bathed in water above 100 degrees F and young children in water above 104 degrees F. Tepid water is at a temperature low enough that the water feels wet, not cold or hot. This is the best temperature to bathe babies.
- *The skin of young children is thinner than that of adults and thus there is an increased burn risk potential. When the temperature of liquid reaches about 160 degrees F, a child may be burned instantly and no one can respond rapidly enough to avoid injury.

For further information or printed material on burns, contact the Hazelwood Fire Department at 314-731-3424.

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