



Shriners Hospitals for Children

Shriners Hospitals Give Tips On Burn Proofing Your Home During Burn Awareness Week, February 2-8, 2003

(NAPSA)—During Burn Awareness Week 2003, February 2-8, the Shriners—members of the fraternal organization that operates 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children throughout North America—want people to take the necessary steps to prevent burns in the home.

“Most burn injuries are preventable,” said Charles A. Claypool, president and CEO of the Shrine of North America. “Our goal with this burn awareness campaign is to help parents keep their children safe and avoid burn injuries at home.”

Shriners Hospitals offer the following tips:

- Provide continuous and appropriate supervision of young children.

- Check smoke detector batteries regularly and replace them when needed, or at least annually.

- Teach children fire safety—Stop, drop and roll; have an escape plan; keep low in a fire.

- Keep electrical cords out of the reach of children.

- At night, children should wear clothing that is specifically designed as sleepwear and labeled “flame resistant” to prevent burn injury or death as a result of fire.

- Establish a “safety zone” in front of stoves/ranges where children are NOT permitted.

- Store chemicals in secure or elevated areas out of the reach and sight of children.

- Supervise young children around any source of hot water—scald burns can occur when children turn on the hot water in the bathtub or at the kitchen sink. Use caution when microwaving liquids.

- Cook on the rear of the stove to prevent spills, especially when young children are in the home.

- Exercise caution when using candles or smoking in the home. Keep candles out of the reach of children or do not use them when young children are present.

- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach of children.



STOP BURN INJURIES—This special decal has been specifically designed by the Shrine of North America to remind parents of steps they can take to keep their children safe and avoid burn injuries at home.

- Water heater thermostats should be set at a maximum of 120°F.

Known as the experts in pediatric burn care, Shriners Hospitals operate four burn hospitals in Galveston, Cincinnati, Boston and Sacramento. Through intensive research and state-of-the-art clinical care, a burned child's chance of survival has more than doubled since the Shriners first opened the burn hospitals in the mid-1960s. Much of today's research now focuses on improving the quality of life for burn survivors.

The 22 Shriners Hospitals provide orthopaedic and burn care totally free of charge to children up to their 18th birthday. The Shrine of North America, an international fraternity with approximately 500,000 members in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Republic of Panama, founded the hospitals.

The Shriners are offering a booklet on burn prevention free of charge. For your copy of “Burn Prevention Tips,” write to the Public Relations Department, Shriners International Headquarters, P.O. Box 31356, Tampa, FL 33631-3356, or visit the Shrine's Web site at www.shrinershq.org.

Note to Editors: Though this article can be run at any time, it is particularly appropriate for publication during Burn Awareness Week, February 2 to 8, 2003.