



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Re: It's Burn Awareness Week – February 1 to 7th

Did you know that in Canada, of all children treated for burn injuries in Canadian hospitals, 75% have received injuries from scalds by hot liquids such as tea, coffee, soup and hot tap water? Did you know that 11% of fire injuries reported were caused by burns resulting from hot substances? Did you know that every second day someone is injured by fire in British Columbia and fire kills every 10 days?

The Province of British Columbia has proclaimed the week of February 1 to 7, 2009 as "Burn Awareness Week" with the hope that through education and awareness we can reduce the number of people affected by burn injuries.

The British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund, a fund actively supported by Nanaimo Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 905, has developed an on-line Education kit for elementary school aged children. The site is an excellent source of facts and information for parents and caregivers to discuss burn awareness and prevention with children. The kit is available on the British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund web site at www.burnfund.org.

The staff at Nanaimo Fire Rescue would like to take the opportunity to share some facts and simple safety tips to help you and your loved ones to avoid burn injuries.

Burn Prevention Tips

-- Many fatal burns to children are the result of playing with fire. Teach children that matches and lighters are tools for adults and not toys for children. Use child-resistant lighters and store all matches and lighters out of sight and out of the reach of children.

-- Keep children at a safe distance from all hot items and never leave hot liquids unattended or at the end of a counter where they may be pulled down by a child. Do not cook with children underfoot. Create a safe zone.

-- When using microwave ovens use extreme caution as foods and liquids can overheat causing serious burns.

-- Never leave cooking foods unattended – oil or fat can easily ignite. If you are faced with a grease fire, slide a lid over the pan and turn the heat source off.

- Advise your babysitter to NEVER leave your child unattended in the kitchen or bathtub.
- Turn down the temperature of your hot water to 49° C (120° F)
- Put sunscreen on you and your children.
- Use safety plugs to cover electrical outlets.
- Keep a screen or glass cover over your fireplace.
- Install smoke alarms on every level and in every sleeping area of your home. Test them once a month and replace batteries when you change your clocks.
- Always place hot items on a secure surface to avoid accidental tipping.

For more information and safety tips visit the City of Nanaimo website at www.nanaimo.ca.