



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/burns
- www.fire.tas.gov.au

“Cool the burn for at least 20 minutes under cool running water, (no ice) keep warm and seek medical attention”

Tasmanian Burns Unit



Prevention of Wood Heater Burns

SUPPORTED BY

TASMANIAN HEALTH SERVICE



Tasmania Fire Service



COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

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TASMANIAN HEALTH SERVICE





Types of Burns

Burns from heaters are caused by:

- Contact with the glass or surrounding hot metal (contact burn)
- Touching the flame in the wood heater (flame burn)
- Flash and flame burn to the face and body from putting accelerants on to the fire to assist in lighting (flash and flame burn)
- Clothing and nightwear catching alight from the flame in the wood heater (flame burn)
- From sitting or standing too close to the heater or fire (radiant burn).



The Facts

- 31% of all children admitted to Burn Units in Australia and New Zealand are aged between 1-2 years.*
- Contact burns are the second most common cause of burns in children.*
- The Tasmanian Burns Unit has continued to see an increase in burns related to heaters, especially in relation to wood heaters.
- Contact burns on the palm or the buttocks are the most common location for wood heater related burns in Tasmania.
- The burn injury can be severe and deep and require surgical intervention.
- Children may require ongoing scar management and the functional use/movement of the hand may be affected.
- Children may require ongoing review for many years and further surgical scar reconstruction.

*(BRANZ 6th Annual report Jul 14-Jun15)

First Aid

- Remove clothing and jewellery.
- Apply cool running water for at least **20 minutes**.
- Cover the burn with a clean cloth and keep the child warm.
- Seek medical attention.

Prevention Tips

- Always use a fixed fire screen/guard around wood heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, radiators, electric heaters.
- Supervise young children at all times when a heater is in use.
- Do not leave the wood heater door open.
- Ensure that clothing or furniture is at least 2 meters away from all heaters or wood fires.
- Never use accelerants to assist in lighting a fire
- Do not allow children to play near a fire/heater even when it is not in use.
- Ensure environment around heater is safe – rug corners are not lifting, toys are not lying around etc (tripping often results in burn injury).
- Do not allow young children to stoke, touch or stand close to heaters and wood fires.
- Children should not assist in the lighting or maintenance of wood heaters.
- Clean chimneys and flues professionally every year.
- You should install a photoelectric smoke alarm in each sleeping area, hallway and living area. Smoke alarms should be supported by a home fire escape plan.

