



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office



February

Prevention Bulletin

2026

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This year's theme, "Burn Prevention Where You Live, Work, and Play – Preventing Burns in the Workplace," highlights how small, proactive safety steps can prevent serious injuries.

Prevent Burn Injuries Where You Work

Burn risks exist in every workplace, from kitchens to offices to factories. Taking simple, proactive steps can keep everyone safe.

Top 5 Burn Prevention Tips:

1. Wear Protective Gear: Use PPE (personal protection equipment) like gloves, aprons, helmets, or flame-resistant clothing whenever handling hot surfaces, chemicals, or machinery.
2. Handle Heat Safely: Monitor hot oil, boiling liquids, ovens, and machinery; open lids away from your face and never leave heat sources unattended.
3. Inspect & Maintain Equipment: Check cords, tools, vehicles, and machines for damage or overheating, and follow safety protocols during maintenance.
4. Control Flammables: Store fuels, chemicals, and combustible materials properly, keep them away from heat, and avoid sparks or open flames.
5. Know Emergency Procedures: Keep fire extinguishers and first aid kits accessible, know exit routes, and practice emergency drills regularly.

Burn injuries continue to be a significant public health issue, with more than 398,000 people seeking medical care for burns in the United States in 2021, according to the CDC. Compared to the overall population, children under five were 2.0 times as likely to be seen for burn injuries at a hospital emergency department. Many of these injuries occur in the home and are preventable through awareness and education.

- Prepackaged, microwavable soups are a frequent cause of scald burns (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over. Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.
- Microwaves can heat unevenly and create hot spots, so avoid using them to heat baby formula or milk.
- Young children are at high risk of being burned by hot foods and liquids. Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet around the stove or any place where hot foods or drinks are being prepared or carried.
- Never hold a child while cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.

CHILD SCALD and BURN SAFETY

Facts & Figures

- 300 children visit emergency rooms due to burn injuries each day.
- 1,100 children die each year from fires and burns.
- Scald burns account for 34% of overall burn injuries admitted to U.S. burn centers.
- Of these, children under 5 years account for 62%.
- Scald burns are more common for young children as compared to contact burns (caused by direct contact with fire) that is more common among older children.
- Babies and young children are even more at risk. They are curious, small and have sensitive skin.
- Scalds can come from hot tap water in bathtubs and showers as well.
- Microwavable foods are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries.



Causes of Fires & Burns

Candles



Portable Oxygen



Chemical Burns

From bleach, cleaners, or batteries



Electrical



Cooking

Resulting in Scald burns



Irons



Portable Generators



Sun Exposure



Gas Fireplaces



Smoking

(i.e. cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are a leading cause of fire deaths



Heating

Peak months for home heating fires are December, January, February



Washers & Dryers

Due to failure to clean them



Causes of Scald Burns

Hot liquids

such as hot tap water, overheated beverages, hot oil



Vapor or Steam



Scald Prevention Safety Tips

A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

Scald Safety

- Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water.
- Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

Burn Rx

Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3–5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

FACT!

Prepackaged **microwavable soups** are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over, pouring hot liquid (and noodles) on the person.



Greenhalgh DG, Bridges P, Coombs E, et al. Instant cup of soup: design flaws increase risk of burns. Journal of Burn Care and Research, July–August 2006; 27(4):476-81



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards





Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home.

SAFETY TIPS

- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

Pets and Wildfires

Make sure pets are included in your family's wildfire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household. Ensure each kit is a size and weight that can be quickly and easily loaded into a vehicle when packing to evacuate.



FACT

Pets or wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These involve cooking equipment, fireplaces and chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and candles.



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Valentine's Day Pet Safety Tips

Each year our poison control experts see a rise in cases around February 14, many involving chocolate or lilies, a flower that's potentially fatal to cats. Valentine's Day can be as much fun for pets as it is for humans—as long as dangerous items are kept out of paws' reach!

Pet-Safe Bouquets

When sending a floral arrangement to someone with a cat, specify that it contain no lilies—and when receiving an arrangement, sift through and remove [all dangerous flora](#). If your pet is suffering from symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting or diarrhea, he may have ingested an offending flower or plant. Use our online [toxic and nontoxic plant](#) libraries as visual guides of what shouldn't be in your bouquets.

Forbidden Chocolate

Seasoned pet lovers know that all types of chocolate are potentially life-threatening when ingested by pets. Methylxanthines are caffeine-like stimulants that affect gastrointestinal, neurologic and cardiac function—they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures and an abnormally elevated heart rate. The high-fat content in lighter chocolates can potentially lead to a life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas. Go ahead and indulge, but don't leave chocolate out for chowhounds to find.

Careful with Cocktails

Spilled wine, a half a glass of champagne or some leftover liquor are nothing to cry over until a curious pet laps them up. Because animals are smaller than humans, a little bit of alcohol can do a lot of harm, causing vomiting, diarrhea, lack of coordination, central nervous system depression, tremors, difficulty breathing, metabolic disturbances and even coma. Potentially fatal respiratory failure can also occur if a large amount is ingested.

Life Is Sweet

So don't let pets near treats sweetened with xylitol. If ingested, gum, candy and other treats that include this sweetener can result in hypoglycemia (a sudden drop in blood sugar). This can cause your pet to suffer depression, loss of coordination and seizures.

Every Rose Has Its Thorn

Don't let pets near roses or other thorny-stemmed flowers. Biting, stepping on or swallowing their sharp, woody spines can cause serious infection if a puncture occurs. De-thorn your roses far away from pets.

Playing with Fire

It's nice to set your evening a-glow with candlelight, but put out the fire when you leave the room. Pawing kittens and nosy pooches can burn themselves or cause a fire by knocking over unattended candles.

Wrap It Up

Gather up tape, ribbons, bows, wrapping paper, cellophane and balloons after presents have been opened—if swallowed, these long, stringy and “fun-to-chew” items can get lodged in your pet's throat or digestive tract, causing her to choke or vomit.



YADKIN COUNTY



EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office is proud to serve the citizens of Yadkin County by promoting the importance of fire safety through education, inspections, and investigations. The Fire Marshal's Office functions under the direction of the emergency services director.

The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for various duties, which include:

- County Fire Inspection Program
- Fire / arson investigations
- Budget preparation
- Coordination between county government and county fire departments
- Fire prevention programs
- Response to emergency situations

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