



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BURNS AWARENESS

THINK SMART AND AVOID FIRES AND BURN WOUNDS

KNOWLEDGE and a little caution can help prevent serious injuries and save many lives – including those of children – that are lost each year due to fire-related adverse incidents.

According to the National Burns Association of South Africa, there are approximately **6-8000 burn injuries** a year – and it is believed that the number of burn-related incidents increases during winter

If there is a fire, immediate action needs to be taken, such as:

- Raising the alarm/ wake up others in the house, this many also mean neighbours
- If clothes are on fire, lie on the floor & roll over.
- Only put water on burn wounds.
- When evacuating, crawl if necessary.
- Remove burnt clothing and jewellery from the burnt areas of the body

To avoid burns-related problems:

- Do not leave candles or cooking pots unattended while they are being used on a stove;
- Never allow children to play near fires, burning pots or kettles;
- Do not leave candles or cookers near curtain or on an uneven surface;
- Do not go to sleep with candles, fires or braziers used for heat still burning;
- Do not lock people inside a house;
- Always ensure adequate ventilation when using braziers or generators and preferably don't use them inside;
- Teach children about fire and its dangers, and keep matches away from them;
- Always store stove fuels and flammable fluids safely away.

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