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# Burn - Fire Injury

## When and Where Fire Deaths and Injuries Occur

- ◆ 90% of child fire-related deaths occur in homes without working smoke detectors.
- ◆ Most home fires and home fire-related deaths occur during cold weather months, December through February..
- ◆ Among children ages 5 and under, the majority of fire-related deaths occur between the hours of 9am and 3pm, during the time when children are most likely to be left unsupervised and unattended.
- ◆ Playing with fire is the leading cause of fire-related death among children ages 5 and under, accounting for more than one-third of all fatalities in this age group. These fires tend to begin in the bedroom or living room where children are often left along to play and, in 75% of these fires, are started by matches or lighters.

### Who is at Risk:

- ◆ Children in homes without smoke detectors.
- ◆ Children ages 5 and under.

## Prevention Tips

- ◆ Keep matches, gasoline, lighters, and other flammable materials locked away and out of reach.
- ◆ Install smoke detectors in your home on every level and in every sleeping area. Test them once a month, replace the batteries at least once a year (unless the batteries are designed for longer life) and replace the detectors every ten years.
- ◆ For the best protection against different types of fires, consider installing both ionization detectors, better at sensing flaming fires, and photoelectric detectors, better at sensing slow, smoky fires.
- ◆ Plan and practice several fire escape routes from the home and identify an outside meeting place. Children may become frightened and confused in a fire and hide rather than escape to safety.

Georgia Emergency Medical Services for Children

