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# Burn - Scalding Injury

## How and Where Scald Burn Deaths and Injuries Occur

- ◆ The majority of burns to children are from hot foods and liquids spilled in the kitchen or other places where food is prepared and served, especially among children ages 6 months to 2 years.
- ◆ Hot liquid and food burns often occur when children upset cups of hot liquid, such as coffee; grab dangling appliance cords; grab pots off the stove; or pull hanging tablecloths or placemats.
- ◆ Hot tap water accounts for nearly one-fourth of all scald burns among children.

### Who is at Risk:

- ◆ Children ages 4 and under and children with disabilities are at greater risk for scald burn-related death and injury.
- ◆ In general, children in single-parent families, children in large families and children in high-stress family situations are a greater risk for scald burns and suffer more burn injuries than other children.

## Prevention Tips

- Never leave a child alone, especially in the bathroom or in the kitchen. If you must leave the room, take the child with you.
- Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees F or less. The lower the temperature, the lower the risk of sustaining scald burn-related injuries.
- Consider installing anti-scald devices in bathtub faucets and showerheads.
- Always test the water temperature before putting a child in the bathtub or shower: put your whole hand in the water, spread your fingers wide and move your hand back and forth through the water for several seconds to check for hot spots.
- Use back burners and turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking. Keep appliance cords out of children's reach, especially if the appliances contain hot liquids.
- Never carry children and hot foods and/or liquids at the same time.

Georgia Emergency Medical Services for Children

