Hazard 25: Flames, Hot Surfaces etc

Healthy Home Rating System (HHRS)
Description of the Hazard

• This category covers threats of burns and scalds.
• It includes burns caused by clothing catching alight from a controlled fire or flame (flame or fire used for heating).
• It does not include burns resulting from an uncontrolled fire at a dwelling.
• The most vulnerable age group is all persons under age 5 years of age.

• Guidance manual, p. 156
Health Effects

• 112,000 people visit some type of hospital or emergency room every year do to burns or scalds incurred in the home.

• 250,000 people have surgeries for burns and scalds.

• Burns or scalds causes over 200 deaths each year, as well as account for a great majority of non-fatal burn accidents
Health Effects

- The severity of the burn or scald is dependent on its depth and the area covered.
- Where the burn or scald is severe, it can result in permanent scarring.
- Which causes physical pain, and many victims or parent of children whom are burnt or scalded, suffer acute psychological distress for many years.
Potential for Harm

• Almost half of the injuries are to children 5 years of age, the risk level is 6 to 7 times greater than the average population. With boys at a slightly high risk than girl.

• The relatively small body area and sensitive nature of younger children’s skin, as well as their low position in relation to hot objects, mean young children are more at risk to being severe injuries that need to be corrected with plastic surgery.
Potential for Harm

• The incidence of burns and scalds is greater for those over 65 years old than for other adults, but less than for children.

• The health outcome for the elderly is usually more serious than for all other age groups.
Relevant Matters Affecting Likelihood and Harm Outcome

- Unprotected hot surfaces with temperatures of 43 C or more (109.4 F)
- Unguarded open flames - to space or water heating appliances
- Hot water to bath - water from bath and basin taps supplied above 46C (114.8 F)
- Hot water to sink - water from kitchen sink taps supplied above 60C (140 F)
Relevant Matters Affecting Likelihood and Harm Outcome

- Thermostatic taps – no thermostatically controlled taps or incorrectly set thermostatically controlled mixer taps or anti scald devices.
- Kitchen layout – poor layout or inadequate space to kitchen, in particular where cooker or worktop is sited close to a door or thoroughfare.
- Inadequate separation – of kitchen from living and sleeping areas.
Healthy Home Rating System Project Leadership

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