

Children and Fire

- An adult must be directly supervising children at all times.
- Trying to scare children about fire, or what will happen to them, can be counter-productive. Remain calm and always be honest and reasonable with children in your response and approach to the issue.
- Understand that receiving a minor burn from fire may not reduce a child's level of interest.
- Be aware that children watch and copy behaviours so set a good example around the fire, and around all heat sources (e.g. kitchen).
- Teach your children that fire is a tool, NOT a toy and may be useful when used safely and responsibly.
- Encourage young children to tell an adult if they find matches or cigarette lighters and thank them for doing so.
- Children are often unaware that a tiny flame can grow into a dangerous fire so build this into your education with them.

In the unlikely event of a burn from fire:

- If a child's clothes catch fire, stop them from running, push them to the ground and roll them over to extinguish the flames. It is a good idea to discuss this "STOP, DROP and ROLL" procedure with the children.
- Do NOT apply lotion, ointment or alcohol to burns. Do not ice – rinse the burn in cold running water for 20 minutes.
- Treat the patient for any shock and apply a non-stick dressing.
- Seek medical aid if the wound is larger than a 20 cent coin.
- Document any incidents thoroughly and report to GEKA immediately.