

Don't play with fire!

Burns and Scalds

In New South Wales during 1953 (latest figures available), sixty-six (66) people died of burns accidentally received. Of these twenty-two (22) were children under five years of age. The most vulnerable group is, therefore, young children and babies, who need special care. Many other persons suffered great pain and spent weeks or months in hospitals, and some were disfigured for life.

Most (if not all) of these accidents were due to someone's carelessness.

To protect yourself and your family from burns and scalds.

1. Keep matches beyond the reach of young children.
2. Keep kettles and pans of hot liquids at the back of the stove.
3. Keep petrol and kerosene out of easy reach. See that petrol in cans or bottles for household use is plainly labelled.
4. Pouring kerosene on a fire is a dangerous practice. If petrol is used, by mistake, the result is likely to be disastrous.
5. Clean clothes with petrol out of doors ; never in a room with a naked flame (oil lamp, gas or fuel stove, open fire).
6. Keep open fires protected by wire screens.
7. If oil or petrol lamps are used, place them where they cannot be pulled over by young children.
8. Fill lamps and oil stoves in daylight.
9. Teach young children the danger of playing with fire and with matches.
10. Remember that celluloid articles are extremely inflammable.

TREATMENT OF BURNS AND SCALDS.

1. Carefully remove any clothing over the injured part unless firmly adherent to the skin.
2. Place the injured part in water. Cold water is best unless a large area is involved, in which case the water should be at body temperature. Care must be taken, however, to keep the water at body temperature. Baking soda may be added to the water (1 tablespoonful to a gallon). A child, if extensively burned or scalded, may be placed in a warm bed until dressings have been prepared, or while awaiting the doctor's arrival.
3. Dress the injured parts by applying strips of linen or calico soaked in—
 - (a) a solution of baking soda in water that has been boiled and allowed to cool (one dessert-spoonful of soda to a pint of water) ; or in
 - (b) warm strong tea made by boiling a handful of tea in a kettle of water for a few minutes.

The strips may be boiled in the water with the tea, lifted out and allowed to drip until sufficiently cool, and then applied. They should then be covered with cotton wool.

4. Keep the patient quiet and warm. Give warm drinks and wrap him up in blankets.
5. Do not use carron oil, vaseline, butter, or any other oil or fat on a dressing for burns.
6. Do not open blisters. (A doctor may do so later however.)

Remember that a burn or scald if extensive is always to be regarded as serious and a doctor called at once.



Still another landscape drawing by Betty Black.