

Burn Awareness

Bristol Fire/Rescue offers a series of programs relating to preventing burn injuries and awareness education and will focus on scald injury, electrical safety to include lighting injuries, general fire and burn safety for older adults, leaving home safely (college students), gasoline safety, and summer burn safety.

Last year Bristol Fire/Rescue responded to 115 calls with visible flames when the first emergency unit arrived on the scene. Across the United States, 3,400 deaths occurred from fire and burns, 30,000 people were hospitalized at burn centers, and 450,000 were treated in hospital emergency departments from injuries. One burn or fire death alone is a devastating number that impacts many lives; 3,400 deaths is an unnecessary number when technology or our own knowledge could have possibly prevented a death or serious injury.

One out of every 3 people will have a negative experience with fire during their lifetime. One-third of the numbers quoted above are related to scald burns that occur in our homes, usually in the kitchen or bathroom. Scald burns can be prevented by increased awareness of hazards and making simple environment or behavioral changes. There are the dos and don'ts with every product we utilize in our daily lives; so we need to utilize the instructions that come with a particular product or seek professional assistance if we are unsure on how to handle or install a product.

It is hoped through participation of the community's citizens, and the Fire Departments educational efforts; these alarming numbers can be reduced. Remember we are ultimately responsible for own personal safety. If you desire additional information about these educational opportunities contact Assistant Fire Chief Jack Spurgeon, Jr. at 423-989-5701.