

# City of Bristol Tennessee

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## **Bristol Fire Department Observes Burn Awareness Week**

Burn Awareness Week, observed the first full week in February, provides an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to share burn awareness and prevention information with the public.

“Recognizing Burn Awareness Week early in the year is an excellent way to “kick off” a year with burn awareness public education events and set the tone for featuring additional tips throughout the year,” said Jack Spurgeon, Asst. Chief Bristol Fire Department.

Scald injuries affect all ages but young children and the elderly are the most vulnerable. Annually in the United States and Canada, over 500,000 people are treated for burn injuries. Roughly half of those injuries are from scalding accidents that occur mostly in the home and usually in the kitchen or bathroom.

Most scalding injuries can be prevented through increased public awareness of scald hazards and by encouraging simple environmental or behavioral changes. “Hot liquids burn like fire and can injure the people you love. Scalds are the Number 1 cause of burn injuries to small children. Young children need to be closely supervised when they are near stoves or other cooking appliances. Even drinking hot liquids can be a potential scald hazard around children under 4-years old,” continued Spurgeon. Changes may include providing a “kid-safe” zone while preparing and serving hot foods and beverages, or simply lowering the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or less.

For more information about preventing scalding injuries, please contact the Bristol Tennessee Fire Department at (423) 989-5701.