



National Burn
Awareness Week
February 5-11, 2017



Special Tips for Home with Older Adults

(in addition to the checklist for adults)

Older adults are at higher risk for burn injury due to diminishing reaction times, mobility, balance, vision, hearing, and senses.

- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Make sure that anyone with a disability is included in your escape planning and determine what assistance they would need to get out of the home, in case of an emergency.
- Install smoke alarms and alert devices called accessories (strobe lights or bed/pillow shakers) for people in your home who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Memorize the emergency number to call in case of fire, usually 9-1-1 or the fire department.
- Consider having a medical alert button for access to help in an emergency.
- Test the water before bathing or showering because older adults' skin thins with aging, making them at higher risk for burn injuries.
- Install anti-scald devices in the bathroom to avoid a scald injury.
- Keep all flame sources (candles, stoves, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) away from medical oxygen. Do not allow anyone to smoke in a home where medical oxygen is used.
- When using a heating pad or electric blanket, choose one that has a timer that will shut off the device automatically. Avoid placing it directly on the skin.



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