



MEETING LOG

MEETING TITLE/SUBJECT: Child Burns

OP PLAN ENTRY: Not on the FY25 Op Plan

DATE OF MEETING: 8/26/2025

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual and In-person (CPSC NPTEC, Rockville, MD)

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Scott Ayers

FILING DATE: 9/24/2025

CPSC STAFF ATTENDEE(S): Scott Ayers (ESEF), Lisa Scott (LSF), Ashley Johnson (HSPP), Daniel Taxier (ESMC), Zach Foster (ESHF), Steve Williams (LS), Emily Maling (LSF), Kristen Talcott (ESHF), and Arthur Lee (ESEF)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

In-person

Kelly Ransdell
Karla Klas
Denni Lowber-Wilson
Teresa Crisman
Cyndy Wright
John Abraham
Bob Renton
Jim Resnick
Amiee Stanton
Creason Walter
Karin Athanas
Rob Bowen
Aleazor Taylor
Beth Anne Nesselt
Brooke Burkey
Elizabeth Waibel

Amy Helm
Amy Rea
Ana Acosta
Angela White
Annette Correard
Carolyn Blayney
Cheryl Malone
Christina Impallaria
Courtney Wright
Dana Haile
Dana Nakamura
Douglas K. Bitton
Emily Dever
Emily Snyder
Erin Horrax
Gilberto Meza-Corral
Greg Woyczynski
Hugh Miles
Jacob Hogue
Jenni Snyder
Jennifer Parks
Joe Musso
Jonathan Midgett
Kelly Reed

Laura Kozak
Laura Rowen
Lauren Indelicato
Maria Bostian
Melanie Dennon
Michele Singletary
Milos Coric
Nichole Towell
Patricia Mieszala
Philip Zaleski
Rebecca Melvin
Richard Shea
Robert Scot Bush
Sarah Beth Abbott
Sarah Fischer
Savannah Carroll
Serica Franklin
Shady Al Hayek
Shannon Smith
Shari Walton
Steven Crown
Tamara Roberts

Selected Virtual (a full list
of virtual attendees is not
available)

Alisa Gormley
Alma Solis
Amber Hill



Summary of Meeting:

CPSC staff, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) staff, and an American Burn Association (ABA) volunteer planned a meeting of stakeholders discussing Child Burns. Stakeholders included representatives from healthcare, government, fire fighters, industry, non-profits, and child and consumer safety organizations. Based on estimates from NEISS, an estimated 69,100 children annually were treated in hospital emergency rooms in the United States for burns between 2019 and 2023. Of that group, an estimated:

- 20,100 were under the age of 2
- 21,200 were between 2 and 5
- 10,700 were between 6 and 9
- 9,000 were between 10 and 13
- 8,000 were between 14 and 17

And of the 69,100 children an estimated:

- 1,300 were for electrical burns
- 30,000 were for scald burns
- 6,100 were for chemical burns
- 29,800 were for thermal burns
- 1,500 were for radiation burns

The discussions focused on three common scenarios where children are burned: open flames inside and outside the home; home tap water and residential water heaters; and cooking and kitchen appliances. Additionally, participants discussed messaging. The participants identified several areas of future collaboration.

Introduction

CPSC staff (Scott Ayers), NFPA staff (Kelly Ransdell), and an ABA volunteer (Karla Klas) welcomed participants to the meeting. In person participants introduced themselves. Because of the number of virtual participants (more than 80), virtual participants were asked to add their names to the meeting chat for attendance purposes. All participants were asked to self-identify their interest categories; participants could self-identify with multiple interest categories. There were more than 20 healthcare participants, more than 20 fire safety participants, 4 manufacturers, 8 consumer safety advocates, 10 special experts, and more than 20 participants with codes and standards knowledge. Participants took turns sharing personal and professional experiences with child burns.

Data

The meeting began with a general discussion on data. There are many databases that participants and researchers can use to study child burns. CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), CPSC's Clearinghouse, CDC's "WISQARS", Georgia's "LMS" "data report, and other state-wide reports were listed as data sources. The ABA maintains a comprehensive list of data sources that track burn injuries in the Burn Care Quality Platform (BCQP) Registry (previously called the National Burn Repository, NBR). Participants can



contact Karla Klas for more information on the BCQP Registry.

Open Flames

Kelly Ransdell led a discussion on open flames as a cause of child burns. Open flames such as backyard fire pits, candles, lighters, fireworks, etc. can be alluring but also pose a danger to children. This discussion focused on common open flame scenarios that burn children, both inside and outside the home. The group discussed backyard fire pits, portable fireplaces, and lithium-ion battery safety. The Fire Safety Week theme this year is “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.”

Tap Water

Karla Klas led a discussion on tap water as a cause of child burns. Whether bathing or just washing hands, tap water that is too hot for children can scald. This discussion focused on actions that can be taken to prevent scald burns. Scald injuries from hot water can occur to people of all ages, but children under the age of 5 are particularly susceptible. The discussion touched on several voluntary product standards including:

- UL 174 Household Electric Storage Tank Water Heaters
- UL/CSA 60335-2-40 Household and Similar Electrical Appliances – Safety – Part 2-40: Particular Requirements for Electrical Heat Pumps, Air-Conditioners and Dehumidifiers
- UL 1563: Electric Spas, Equipment Assemblies, and Associated Equipment
- ANSI Z21.10 / CSA 4 Water Heaters

Participants discussed what the appropriate temperature to set a water heater should be. A set point of 140 °F is recommended to prevent Legionella but may be too hot and can burn young children’s skin. Some recommend between 120 °F and 130 °F. Additionally, stratification of the water heater can cause problems: hotter water rises so a water heater discharging a lot of water can slowly discharge hotter water.

Participants discussed how to test water temperature for infant bathing. Some organizations used to give away thermometers to measure bath water temperature but no longer do because of a lack of product certification. Participants were not aware of any known product standards for measuring the temperature of bath water when bathing infants. Others discussed anti-scald devices installed on bathtub and kitchen sink faucets. Participants discussed scenarios where infants bathing in a kitchen sink kicked the faucet, suddenly increasing the water temperature. CPSC staff will examine these possible gaps in standards for products measuring water temperature.

Participants discussed rental units, such as apartments where tenants do not have access to the water heater setting. The International Property Maintenance Code or another model building code may have requirements that could be added or changed to help these situations.

Participants discussed hot beverages. The brewing temperature and the serving temperature are different. The group discussed that when consumers are served hot beverages, particularly



in scenarios with limited personal space, such as on an airplane, beverages should have lids to mitigate burns should the beverage splash or spill. Further discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration and other authorities could help mitigate these scenarios.

Participants discussed kitchen safety in general. There are many hazards in the kitchen, not just risks of burns. The group discussed whether breakaway power cords could be an effective safety measure for countertop kitchen appliances.

Participants discussed hair products, such as curling irons and flat irons. A participant suggested that heat sleeves could be a way to mitigate potential burn injuries.

Cooking

Scott Ayers led a discussion on cooking as a cause of child burns. As children grow, parents naturally want their children to become more independent. Teaching children to cook presents a lot of dangers that may otherwise be overlooked by parents. The discussion focused on how to better protect children as they become more independent in the kitchen.

Participants discussed cooking safety. Oklahoma University Health (OU Health) has distributed ramen noodle packages with a sticker claiming that 10,000 kids get burned each year while making ramen noodles and that microwaves can heat water to over 200 F in two minutes and that water at this temperature can cause scald burns in under 3 seconds. A high school student presentation developed by Megan Barry, now a student at University of Wisconsin, Madison, showed that from the CPSC NEISS database that between 2014 and 2023:

- An average of 4,110 children are treated at a hospital emergency room for burns where a microwave was involved. The breakdown by age is:
 - Children 0 – 4 suffered an average of 1,300 burns a year
 - Children 5 – 9 suffered an average of 1,720 burns a year
 - Children 10 – 14 suffered an average of 910 burns a year
 - Children 15 – 17 suffered an average of 180 burns a year
- And that of those 4,110 children, on average 2,840 of those burns involved a water-based food (such as ramen or soup). The breakdown by age is:
 - Children 0 – 4 suffered an average of 960 burns a year
 - Children 5 – 9 suffered an average of 1,230 burns a year
 - Children 10 – 14 suffered an average of 560 burns a year
 - Children 15 – 17 suffered an average of 90 burns a year

The presentation also found that water-based foods can heat to over 200 °F in 2 minutes in a 1,000 W microwave. OU Health shared that ramen noodle burns had accounted for 86 of 228 child burns at their hospital during a certain time frame. Their research did not find any socio-economic connection to the burns. After starting the ramen noodle sticker program, OU Health is finding a 30% decline in the ramen noodle burns of children. OU Health is willing to share help others implement similar programs in their jurisdictions.

Participants discussed how long food should cool in the microwave before handling, however no



definitive answers were provided.

Participants discussed the effectiveness of silicon mitts to prevent burn injuries.

Messaging

Kelly Ransdell led a discussion on educational messaging.

NFPA Educational Messages Advisory Committee is working on updating the EMAC Desk Reference which contains fire and burn safety education messages that safety professionals can use to help share safety information with the public. Section 8 of the current Desk Reference contains safety messages on cooking safety. Section 9 of the current Desk Reference contains safety messaging on burns. NFPA aims to update the Desk Reference every 3 years. Participants are encouraged to download the current Desk Reference at <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/educational-messaging> and provide feedback on possible changes and additions.

Participants discussed ways to get messaging out. Social media; Charlie's House, a free-standing safety house; giveaways; and student education campaigns were all possible methods to spread messaging.

Participants discussed developing and sharing shorter messages, such as flyers and social media posts that would be based on the Desk Reference but targeted for a specific audience.

Participants discussed stop-drop-and-roll. While the message is effective, many younger children associate stop-drop-and-roll with any fire indication, such as smoke alarms, and not just clothing fires. As a result, stop-drop-and-roll is targeted with older children, around 10 years of age, so that they can fully understand the message.

General Advice

Participants throughout the meeting discussed some general advice, including:

- Do not charge your cell phones under your pillow
- After a backyard fire, the remaining charred fuel can remain hot for many hours
- Smoke alarms are the most important element of fire safety, followed by a home escape plan, and then closing your bedroom door before falling asleep

General Discussions during the meeting

Participants throughout the meeting discussed the role of social media and the need to better utilize social media to get messaging out to the public. And participants discussed lithium-ion battery risks and safety messaging.

Next Steps:

CPSC staff will work with some of the participants to organize future activities and actions.