



The injury prevention program  
of BC Children's Hospital

604-875-3273

1-888-331-8100

[www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart)

Visit the Safety Station  
a program of Safe Start for:

- fireplace screens
- hearth gates
- hearth cushions

[www.bcchildrens.ca/safetystation](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/safetystation)

# Fireplace Safety Tips

*Did you know?*

*A child's skin can burn  
in less than a second,  
on the hot glass of  
a gas fireplace!*



March 2011



The injury prevention program  
of BC Children's Hospital

Every year, BC Children's Hospital Emergency Department treats a number of children with serious burns to their hands or face, caused by touching or falling against the hot glass of a gas fireplace.

## GAS FIREPLACES

### Did you know?

- The glass of a gas fireplace heats up to 200°C (400°F) in just 6 minutes and takes 45 minutes to cool down.
- The pilot light of a gas fireplace may also heat the glass enough to cause a burn.
- A child's skin is 4 times thinner than an adults and can burn 4 times faster.
- Children can be attracted to the bright flames and may try to touch them.



### What can you do?

- Stay close to your child when in a room with a fireplace that is on or has recently been turned off.
- Block the fireplace with a hearth gate or screen that bolts into or around your fireplace.
- Put a safety gate in the doorway to the room with a fireplace.
- If possible, use your fireplace only after your children have gone to bed.

## THE HEARTH

### Did you know?

- Since hearths are usually made of brick, stone or marble, falls can cause cuts, concussions, broken teeth and skull fractures.
- Items such as pillows, sheets and rugs can catch on fire if placed too close to the fire.

### What can you do?

- Cushion the edge of your hearth with soft, fire-resistant material such as hearth cushioning.
- Or block off the hearth with a hearth gate.



*Burns are the second leading cause of injury to children under 5 years of age.*

*You can help prevent injuries by: being aware of the hazards, making your home safe and providing constant, close supervision of your child.*

For more information, please call Safe Start at 604-875-3273 or 1-888-331-8100  
or visit [www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart)