Prevention of Car Radiator Burns

Factsheet

- Car radiator burns are common cause of scald burn injuries, particularly in males. Scald burns are among the top cause of burns for adults and children*
- Most often these burn injuries involve the face, upper arms and upper chest areas and are generally caused when the radiator cap is removed whilst the engine is still hot and steam that is trapped under high pressure in the radiator is released spraying steam and boiling water upwards.
- Although manufacture warning labels have been placed on many car radiators these burn injuries are still common.

*Data obtained from Burns Registry of Australia and New Zealand (BRANZ) 2018

First Aid for Burns
If you, or someone you know is burnt, take the following actions:
1. Remove clothing and jewellery
2. Apply cool running water to the burn for 20 minutes (effective up to 3 hours after injury)
   Spraying water or alternating wet cloths can help if limited water
   If no water available a hydrogel burn first aid dressing can be used until water available. Caution use on large %TBSA due to hypothermia
   Do NOT use ice, butter, creams or alternatives
3. Cover burn with clean cloth and keep the patient warm
4. Seek medical attention for any burn bigger than 3cm; or with blisters; or if any other concerns

For more information go to www.anzba.org.au