## Prevention of

### **Hot Ash Burns**

# AAAZBA Australian & New Zealand Burn Association

# **Factsheet**

Care • Prevention • Research • Education

- Hot ash burns from improperly extinguished fires are a common cause of burn injury to very young children in rural Australia.
- Hot ash burns typically occur in young children around 2 years of age, boys or girls alike.
- Burns usually happen to the soles of the feet, and often hands and knees when the child sinks into the hot sand and falls over.
- Young children have fragile skin and their skin burns deeper and more quickly than adults and at lower temperatures



- ✓ Do put out campfires with water
- ✓ Do check camping areas upon arrival for remnants of campfires left by previous campers
- Do insist on children wearing footwear when playing outside
- ✓ Do use a ring of stones to mark an area around the campfire



- Do not leave children unsupervised in a campsite area or near campfires
- > Do not cover campfire with sand or dirt



#### **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 at least 20 minutes
- 3. Cover burn with clean cloth and keep the patient warm **Do NOT use ice, butter, creams, etc**
- 4. Seek medical attention for any burn bigger than 3cm, or with blisters, or if any other concerns are present