

## ECHO Final Script – “Preventing Hot Liquid Burns at Home”

September 2008 / FINAL

### **-1- (Shot of ambulance pulling into hospital or on street; shots of child in hospital bed with bandages: if not available, shots of children playing inside or out)**

Each year in Minnesota hundreds of children are seriously injured by some of the most common items in our homes. It happens when hot liquids touch a child’s skin causing a serious burn called a scald. Many of these burns can be prevented. Today, we’ll show you how and discuss what to do if such a burn occurs.

[58]

### **-2- (Shots inside house, kitchen with coffee or tea pot, microwave; followed by bathroom shots, then water running from tap)**

Our lives are made easier by many time-saving devices in our homes. Kitchens have stoves and ovens, as well as coffee or tea pots, rice cookers, and microwaves. In the bathroom, we have sinks and bathtubs. All of these things, used properly, are completely safe. However, they can also make liquids hot enough to burn a person’s skin like fire. A hot liquid burn is the most **common form** of burn among children.

[73]

### **-3- (Shot of parent and child at stove, using microwave, or parent supervising bath)**

Constant supervision of children around hot liquids anywhere in the house is the most important step in preventing such burns.

[20]

### **-4- (Shot of parent and child at stove or microwave, followed by shots of steam rising from soup or other hot food, then family eating shots)**

In the kitchen, NEVER let children younger than 12 cook or use a microwave by themselves. Boiling pots of soup, steamed rice, coffee, tea, or even macaroni and cheese can cause a scald if it touches their skin. Although the microwave does not get hot, the food inside does, and could cause a scald if it spills onto a child’s skin!

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### **-5- (Shots of pots on back burners with handles turned in, electrical appliance on the back of countertops, children playing in a room NOT the kitchen)**

Practicing safe cooking habits also helps prevent hot liquid burns. Use the back burners on the stovetop first, and keep handles turned in. This helps keep children from pulling hot liquids or foods down upon themselves. Similarly, push coffee and tea pots, rice cookers, and other electrical appliances to the back of countertops. Try to keep children out of the kitchen and away from hot foods when you are cooking.

[70]

### **-6- (Shots of water running into a bathtub, shots of an adult adjusting hot and cold faucets, shots of adult supervising child in bath (if available)—if not, maybe shot of empty bath tub with kyron over: Remain with children constantly while they are bathing)**

A leading cause of hot liquid burns among children under age one is overly hot bath water. Always test the water in a sink or bathtub before your children get into it. Run the cold water first, then add hot water. Finish with cold water, to keep burning water from dripping from the faucet! You must remain with young children constantly while they are bathing. This guards against drowning and helps prevent them from getting burned by turning on hot water.

[81]

### **-7- (Shots of table set with tablecloth –coffee on it if available, shots of burning candle or simmer pot, shot of candle or coffee cup placed on high shelf-if available, then shot of person blowing out candle)**

Hot liquids anywhere in the house can cause a scald. Many children are burned when they pull on a table cloth, reaching for a cup or plate, and the contents spills on them. Hot candle wax and hot liquid from simmer pots are another frequent source of scald burns. Remember “up high and away” is the safest place for items that can cause hot liquid burns. Keep such items on tables without table cloths, and blow out candles when you leave the room.

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**-8- (Shot of person dialing phone; ambulance or paramedics arriving at house)**

If you or someone in your household is burned by hot liquids, immediately pour cool water on the burn. Then, call the emergency phone number 9-1-1. Do not put any medicine on the burn, only cool water. If possible, cover the burn with a clean cloth, then wait for help.

[50]

**-9- (Shots of children playing with an adult supervising)**

Children are most often burned in an unguarded moment when they are not being watched. But, you can prevent scald burns through careful supervision, safe cooking habits and by keeping items containing hot liquids “up high and away” from children.

[40]

[536]