

Toolbox Talk — Instructor Guide for Hair Stylists

Scalds and Burns Topic Overview

Scalds and burns are common in hair salons. Although most of these injuries are minor, they can be extremely painful, can take a long time to heal, and can leave scars if not cared for properly.

Demonstration and **Discussion Topics**

Discuss scald and burn hazards in the shop, including hot equipment (curling irons, hair dryers) and hot water.
Tour the shop with the students, pointing out these hazards.
Distribute the student handout.
Review the safety tips.
Discuss how scalds and burns can occur, and that scalds (hot water burns) are as bad as fire burns.
Emphasize the need to be alert (not groggy or sleepy) at all times in the shop.
Explain what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of scalds and burns (e.g., water temperature control).
Explain what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of scalds and burns (e.g., water temperature control). Emphasize that good housekeeping is mandatory to prevent slips against hot curling irons. Make sure all students are trained in how to keep their work areas clean. Make it Real: Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience, or
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use the following examples:

- A young worker in a Lower Mainland hair salon was using a curling iron. She dropped it and, to prevent it hitting the floor, grabbed it midair. She suffered 2nd degree burns to her hand.
- A hair stylist ran water over his hand to test the temperature before washing a client's hair. The water was very hot and he suffered a scald burn to his hand.
- Discuss the attitude that "it won't happen to me". Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- ☐ **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about burn or scald hazards.
- ☐ Encourage them to **ASK** questions.
- ☐ **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- \square Set a good example by working safely at all times.

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