

***In An Instant - Fire Injury Prevention
Leader's Guide - Page Two
Distributed by Pyramid Media***

LENGTH: 29 minutes

SUBJECTS: Health and Safety

AUDIENCE: Elementary - Adult

Not recommended for children under the age of 10.

CONTENT: Fire, for all its benefits, can flare out of control in an instant, and produce excruciatingly painful burns and life-long scarring. The "lucky" ones survive; many don't. This powerful video takes you inside the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center, a major medical facility, where doctors, nurses, and therapists work to save and treat victims of burn injuries. These medical experts describe the procedures they perform to keep their patients alive, beginning the long road to recovery from painful, and often preventable, burn injuries. Four young burn survivors relate their stories and how their burns changed their lives in one horrifying moment. For Curtis and Zachary, it was accidents involving gasoline; for Lindsey it was a grease fire, for Jordan it was a dangerous game which engulfed him in flames. Each child still suffers both physically and emotionally, courageously talking about their experience in hopes that other children will understand that being burned is devastating and permanent. In addition, the video highlights prevention messages from children burn survivors, Firefighters and arson investigators also communicate information on fire safety and legal ramifications of intentionally set fires.

Note to group leader: Studies show that involving parents and other adults in fire safety programs produces positive results. If possible, invite these adults to the class to view and discuss the video with students. Fire safety and prevention is important for all ages.

OBJECTIVES: *After viewing, students should be able to:*

- Understand the devastating effects of fire and burn injuries
- Recognize that playing with fire, can result in life-changing injury, constant pain, or even death
- Know that fire can erupt in an instant and cannot be controlled
- Intentionally set fires (arson) can result in legal consequences
- Understand the importance of creating safe home and school environments
- Make the choice to practice fire safety prevention to avoid all needless burn injuries.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

BEFORE VIEWING:

It is important that the group leader see this video before presenting it to a class. This is a program showing burn injuries, surgical procedures, children with scars and one child who died from her burns. Prior to presenting the video, prepare the audience for what it will see, and define medical terminology such as debridement and skin grafting as stated in the video. Make the point that though the show will be seen on a television monitor, this is not a TV show - this is real, and what happened to the children in the show can and does happen to children every day. Emphasize to your audience that as they view the video to acknowledge the danger of fire experimentation and focus on prevention message.

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AFTER VIEWING:

- Give the audience a moment to think about what they have seen, then ask the general question, "What have you found out about fire and burns?" This should provoke a number of responses, primarily the recognition that no one wants it to happen to him or her.
- If that's the case, how can burns be avoided? (Avoid playing with fire, store gasoline outside the home in an approved container away from any ignition source, do not leave the stove unattended when cooking, never believe you can control the fire.)
- What makes burns so painful? (The skin is burned off, leaving nerve endings exposed to air)
- What makes burns so dangerous and hard to treat? (The body is not equipped to survive without skin, and skin replacements - grafting - does not always work)
- Being burned is just the first painful result of fire. What are some others? (Numerous surgeries, skin grafts, removing dead skin (debriding), cleaning the wounds, being on a ventilator, relearning everyday tasks, continuing physical therapy)
- What is arson? (intentional fire setting) Why would people intentionally set a fire? (for some it is the excitement of the fire itself, the fire department response, the thrill of getting away with something) Does the fire destroy all clues of arson? (No, fire inspectors can find numerous clues which often lead to the arsonist)
- Did anyone in this video intend to start a fire? (No, each child was involved in an accident)
- Accidents, by definition, are unintended and unforeseen. Yet there are circumstances in which accidents are more likely to happen than not. What are some circumstances? (Almost any situation in which fire is used, especially if the fire is anywhere near a flammable material such as gasoline, grease, paper, curtains, furniture, leaves, etc.)
- Jordan, who was playing with fire and hair spray, says he learned about fire the hard way. What was his dangerous mistake? (Using aerosol with a lighter on his clothing and thinking he would not get burned, the wrongful assumption that fire could be controlled.)
- Even after seeing and hearing how devastating burns are, it's still hard to envision this horror happening to oneself. How would one live with this pain? (With difficulty and regret) What would be one's greatest wish? (That it stop) Do burn injuries stop? (Never. They must be prevented)
- Ask the audience to name some important aspects of their lives, such as playing sports, working, dating, effortlessly doing everyday activities, enjoying hobbies, pets, the love of others. For all the children in this video, these activities are now curtailed or impossible. What would change in the lives of the audience? How would they feel if nothing were ever the same as now?
- What new understandings can the audience take with them after seeing this video? (The majority of all burn injuries are preventable, practice home safety prevention, never experiment with fire, fire affects everyone including families and firefighters who respond.)
- Ask the audience what each one would tell their families and friends about the consequences of fire.

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