

# Think Before the Heat: Burn Prevention Awareness

Burns can happen in seconds. Stay alert, follow safety procedures, and use proper protective equipment to prevent injuries at work and at home.



## Prevent Burns. Protect People.

Burn hazards exist in many environments—from job sites and vehicles to kitchens and equipment areas. The risk of injury can be reduced by recognizing potential dangers early, maintaining tools and protective equipment, and keeping workspaces in safe working order. Employees should be familiar with emergency procedures, ensure exits remain unobstructed, and verify that warning systems are operational. Ongoing training supports awareness and prepares teams to act quickly if an incident occurs. Use caution around heat sources, properly store flammable and hazardous materials, and speak up about unsafe conditions. Building a safe workplace is a shared effort rooted in awareness, prevention, and accountability.

To learn more about National Burn Awareness Week, contact OWC at [DHRMRiskManagement@DHRM.virginia.gov](mailto:DHRMRiskManagement@DHRM.virginia.gov) or visit the American Burn Association at [National Burn Week](#).



## Use this checklist to strengthen burn prevention in your workplace:

### Identify Hazards in Your Space

Spot burn risks where they happen, hot equipment, electrical panels, fuel storage, chemicals, and cooking areas. Address issues early.

### Practice Emergency Procedures

Ensure exits are clear, alarms are working, and staff know what to do in the event of fires, chemical exposures, or equipment failures.

### Maintain Equipment & Work Areas

Service vehicles, tools, kitchen appliances, machinery, and heating devices regularly to prevent fires, overheating, or malfunctions.

### Store Hazardous Materials Safely

Keep fuels, chemicals, gases, and flammables in approved containers with proper ventilation.

### Review Safety Gear & PPE

Check that personal protective equipment is available, in good condition, and appropriate for the tasks at hand. Replace damaged gear promptly.

### Train Regularly

Conduct safety refreshers throughout the year so new and long-time team members understand burn risks and prevention steps.

### Stay Alert Around Heat Sources

Watch for hot surfaces, open flames, steam, engines, batteries, and high-temperature equipment. Simple awareness prevents accidents.

### Promote a Safety Culture

Encourage teams to speak up about hazards, report issues promptly, and model good burn-prevention habits.