

News

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* * * Frog Prince may save children from burns.

DALLAS--Just about everyone has heard the story of the ugly frog who turns into a prince when he's kissed. Now, a well-known surgeon and researcher in the treatment of burns says there really is such a creature. And you don't even have to kiss him to turn him into a prince of a fellow.

The Frog Prince, a new bath thermometer which looks like a toy, has the potential of curbing the high rate of burns due to scalds in infants and small children, says Dr. Charles Baxter.

When the water is warmed to a safe bathing temperature of 100 degrees, the Frog Prince's heart lights up. But when the water is too hot, spots on the frog turn from white to tan.

Baxter, professor of surgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas and head of the Parkland Burn Unit, is also a proponent of families with small children keeping the temperature in their water heaters down. Adjustments on old heaters can be made to keep the temperature at a maximum of 120-130 degrees, safe to babies and little children. New heaters can be adjusted to the safe temperature when they're installed.

"Parents often don't realize that a little one's skin is extremely sensitive and can't take hot water like an adult's can," he says. "And while only 'sickies' would ever hurt a child on purpose, in 1978 we saw 54 scald burns in Parkland--many children injured in the bathtub. Also, senior citizens and patients with diabetes may need cooler water than most of us.

Baxter's office and the Parkland Burn Unit will work in cooperation with the up-coming Fire Safety Fair, sponsored by Children's Television Workshop, Sunday, May 17. The fair will be from 1-5 p.m. in front of

Dallas City Hall.

The Fire Safety Fair which is open to the public at no charge, is culminating event in a program of burn education presented by CTW in Dallas and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration. Dallas is one of several cities in the country which has run a series of workshops, primarily for pre-school teachers and day-care workers on how to educate the very young about burns and fire prevention. These spring workshops, the last ones slated for May, are under the direction of Rene Peña, regional CTW director. The pilot program coordinates with burn education segments on "Sesame Street."

Demonstrations of the Frog Prince and "stop-signs" for hot objects such as toasters, coffee pots and oven doors, will be given by burn personnel at the May 17 fair. Fire safety and burn information for parents and children will also be available at their booth.

Other booths and exhibits are being planned by the American Red Cross, the Dallas Public Library, the Dallas Fire Department, the Grand Prairie Fire Museum and the Continuing Education Department of Parkland Memorial Hospital. There will be Big Bird and Bert and Ernie on television monitors doing burn education skits from "Sesame Street," burn education puppet shows, music, clowns and refreshments.

Information on the Frog Prince can be obtained by writing ^{c.q.} clinitemp, P.O. Box 40273, Indianapolis, IN, 46240.

For information about the fire-education programs and the fair, call the Children's Television Workshop office at 214/826-5850.

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