

Injury Prevention: Protecting Children from Iron Burns

Case for Action:

- Over the last four years the Strong Regional Burn Center has seen a repetitive pattern of children with burn injuries from touching unattended, hot clothing irons
- The majority of the injuries are all the more complex because they involve the hands

Description:

- In collaboration with the University of Rochester Department of Chemical Engineering, chemical engineering students were challenged to design an iron protection cover device or cooling method to cool the iron as quickly as possible. One goal is to get the support of national burn experts so that we may create a national safety standard.
- Identified the population most at risk; reviewed current products on the market and safety information; studied iron heat transfer

Partners:

- Strong Regional Burn Center
- Department of Chemical Engineering

Outcomes:

- Created an informational brochure and disseminated it to those most at risk along with TV spots
- Developed an innovative low-cost iron protection device
- Shared information with national leaders in burn prevention
- Currently applying for a U.S. patent on safety device for clothing irons
- Published article on *Development of a Clothing Iron Safety Device* in the Journal of Burn Care and Research, January 2009

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