



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Harborview Medical Center
Burn Model System

Newsletter

Summer 2006

Campfire Burn Injuries

In a review of patients with “campfire burns” treated at Harborview Medical Center, injuries were caused from either contact (with hot coals/embers) or flame (often when lighting the fire). 81% of patients with contact

burns were intoxicated at the time of injury, versus only 11% with a flame injury. Furthermore, backyard firepits carry the same risk for injury and when children are present, it is recommended that they keep a safe distance of 4 feet

from the fire (circle of safety). Dr. Matthew Klein believes that public education and greater awareness are KEY to prevention, especially when alcohol is present and being consumed.

Burn Injury Information Group

Our support group for those injured and recovering from a burn injury continues to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month

from 7-8:30pm in the 8th floor conference room, East Hospital at Harborview Medical Center. This group is open to all burn survivors

and their families. Upcoming meeting dates include: August 17, and September 21, 2006. This meeting is available free of charge.

Nurse Profile: Karen Stevenson, RN, BSN

Karen began her nursing career at Harborview Medical Center in 1981 as a senior nursing student in the Burn Center. A year later, she graduated from Seattle University and joined the staff as a registered nurse...that was 25 years ago! Initially, Karen worked on the acute care floor (8East). Today, Karen works on the Burn Intensive Care Unit on 9East.

In preparation for this newsletter, we asked Karen for the secret to her longevity – without hesitation she said, “It’s the patients. At this Center I am able to treat the WHOLE person – not only do I provide wound care, but I help with ambulation, exercising, and

with splint application; I listen, soothe, comfort, and encourage; I answer questions (some that haven’t even been asked yet) and I let my patients and their families know that they are not alone. Burn nursing is my calling.” Karen speaks of many “Kodak Moments” - experiences with patients and their families that have left a permanent mark on her heart. She says, “... those moments from so many amazing people over the years is the gift that I get back. My job fills my heart and that is why I stay.” The Burn Center at Harborview is indeed a special place because of special people like Karen Stevenson.

Research Update

As part of our NIDRR-funded research, we are determining the top reasons for distress after hospital discharge for burn survivors. At one-month following discharge, our research has shown that reasons for distress can be grouped into four distinct categories. The research technique used for grouping reasons for distress is promising in that it will help us to go beyond simply viewing burn survivors as one similar group with all the same experiences and concerns. Through this research, we believe that we can more easily identify which type of distress a survivor is experiencing and then design appropriate interventions to help alleviate the distress.

The primary investigator for this project is Shelley Wiechman Askay, PhD. Dr. Wiechman Askay also participates in the Burn Injury Information Group meetings.

Did You Know?

The Northwest Burn Foundation (NWBF) provides a summer camp for young burn survivors. For information, contact the NWBF at 206-789-6838 or toll-free at 1-888-NO BURNS.

Visit our website at <https://depts.washington.edu/uwnidrr/> for more information. To reach the UW Burn Center Clinic, call 206-731-5735.

