

## FIRE SAFETY AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

All parents worry about fire safety around the house, but when your child has special needs extra precautions may be needed.

For example, did you know that the impulsive nature of some children with AD/HD may make them more likely to suffer injury due to certain kinds of burns. An Indiana University analysis of 278 children who were admitted to a pediatric burn center over the course of seven years revealed that 13% of the burn victims had AD/HD.

The study, appearing in the March issue of the medical journal *Burns*, showed that burn victims with AD/HD had more extensive burns and stayed longer in the burn center than burn victims without AD/HD. The AD/HD victims were also much more likely to have thermal rather than flame burns, which suggests that they waited longer to get out of a dangerous situation involving high heat.

Here are some resources to make sure your family is never caught unprepared:

1. A fire safety factsheet/checklist for people with special needs  
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/public/factsheets/fswy23.shtm>
2. Fire Safety for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing  
<http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=20758>
3. Special Needs Safety Tips  
[http://wwwsafekids.org/tier2\\_rl.cfm?folder\\_id=2020](http://wwwsafekids.org/tier2_rl.cfm?folder_id=2020)
4. PDF Download - Fire Safety in the Home  
<http://www.ideallives.com/downloads.php?a=cat&cid=4>  
(Source: Ideal Lives Inclusion and Advocacy Center)