



Paraffin Safety Association  
Southern Africa

ENGLISH

### Fact Sheet: Important Safety Messages

- 1. KEEP PARAFFIN UP AND AWAY WHERE IT IS OUT OF SIGHT AND REACH OF YOUNG CHILDREN.**
  - Paraffin is dangerous. It can kill if not treated properly.
  - It is best to keep it locked away.
  - Store paraffin in its own special bottle. Avoid storing it in a cold drink bottle or milk container.
  - Put the cap of the bottle on after usage.
  - Use a funnel to pour paraffin. Avoid using a cup. Also put the funnel away after usage.
- 2. IF A CHILD SWALLOWS PARAFFIN ACT QUICKLY!**
  - Do not wait. Get the child to clinic or hospital immediately.
  - Give the child nothing to eat or drink.
  - Do not make the child vomit.
  - If paraffin is spilt on clothing, remove the clothing to avoid breathing in paraffin fumes.
- If just a drop of paraffin gets into the lungs it causes serious damage to the lungs.
- 3. GIVE NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK IF A CHILD SWALLOWS PARAFFIN.**
  - DO NOT give any medicine, traditional medicines, food, milk, or home remedies.
  - Provide comfort and support.
  - Think of having an emergency plan available to get the child to clinic or hospital.
- 4. KEEP THE AIR IN YOUR HOME CLEAN and SAFE.**
  - Let fresh air into the room when you are using a paraffin appliance – fresh air clears the bad fumes.
  - Paraffin should be clear in colour, and uncontaminated with any other fuel like petrol, diesel, etc.

- It is a good investment to buy the safest stoves, heaters and lamps as a way of preventing injury and not putting yourselves and others in danger. In this way you can prevent air pollution and fires.

#### **5. BIG FIRES START WITH A SMALL FLAME.**

- Turn appliances off when you leave home or go to sleep.
- All fires and appliances must be supervised.
- Place paraffin appliances away from things that can burn.
- Put paraffin appliances on a steady and even surface where they cannot be knocked or pulled over.
- Keep a bucket of dry sand ready to put out paraffin-related fires.

#### **6. IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE.**

- Stay calm and do not panic.
- Raise the alarm and get out.
- Call the emergency services. Know where to find their numbers.
- If building is on smoke then crawl low on your hands and knees to get out.

- If your clothes catch fire, then stop, drop and roll over, to put out the flames.
- Keep a bucket of dry sand ready to put out paraffin-related fires.

#### **7. ACT FAST TO COOL A BURN.**

- Stay calm and do not panic.
- Put the burnt area in cool water for 20 minutes.
- Do not put anything on the burn – no butter, oil, lotions or medicines as it will make burn worse.
- Get the person to a hospital or clinic immediately.

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