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Young cook seriously burned by boiling water

Burn Injury Narrative (SHARP Report # 86-5-2008)

What happened?

A cook in his early thirties was working when he slipped on a mat in the kitchen. As he went to reach out for something to brace his fall, he pulled a pot of boiling water down off the stove which spilled down his back.

- He suffered 2nd degree burns to approximately 15% of his body.
- He was in the hospital for 2 weeks and out of work for 5 weeks.
- The injury costs were almost \$11,000 dollars.



How can you prevent this from happening?

Employees:

- **Set** pot handles so they don't stick out over the edge of the range and are away from burners.
- **Clean up** spills immediately, if spills reach the underside of kitchen mats, they can become ineffective as slip-resistant surfaces.
- **Wear** protective footwear with slip-resistant soles.
- **Avoid** boots that can trap hot liquid inside.
- **Keep** work areas free of trash and food scraps, many slips and trips are the result of poor housekeeping.

Employers:

- **Designate someone** on each shift to be responsible for immediate clean-up of food, oil or other liquid spills, especially during busy times.
- **Assure** that mats are of an adequate size, stiffness and grip to prevent slipping.
- **Provide** health and safety training to employees. This will help employees learn how to recognize and avoid hazards and keep lines of communication open with management.
- **Train** your employees on **first aid** for burns so that immediate and proper first aid treatment is accessible at the job site.

More restaurant safety resources can be found at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/WorkplaceRights/TeenWorkers/JobSafety/RestaurantProgram/Resources/>

Additional restaurant burn injury information can be found at:

<http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Pubs/default.asp#WorkBurns>

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