

Media Release

2 February 2009

The Royal Perth Hospital burns unit is warning people about the dangers of misusing aerosol cans after it has seen an alarming increase in aerosol can related burn injuries over the past six months.

RPH's Clinical Nurse and Burns Clinic Coordinator, Sharon Rowe, said there has been a noticeable increase in patients coming in with aerosol can related burns injuries, prompting the burns unit to issue the community safety warning.

"Over the past six months the department has treated at least eight patients, with one patient needing to be airlifted from the remote north of WA," said Sharon.

"What is most distressing for the burn's team is the totally preventable nature of these injuries.

"We really want to get the message out there in the community about the dangers of aerosol cans and the importance of not misusing them," she said.

"People need to read the warnings and know the risks, and aerosol cans should never be thrown in fires or treated inappropriately."

Over the summer BBQ season the burns unit also sees an increase in burns related injuries involving gas ignition and gas related incidents.

"It is very important that people think of the risks and be aware of the consequences when using potentially explosive materials," Sharon said.

"Burns injuries are painful and can stay with you for life, so we just want people to please be careful," Sharon said.

(Sharon Rowe will be available for interview tomorrow Tuesday 3 Feb)

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