



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET  
Department of Public Health Sciences  
Division of Social Medicine



WHO COLLABORATING  
CENTRE  
ON  
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

## SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

NO. 10  
March 2004

\*\*\*\*\* LETTER FROM THE EDITOR\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to the tenth issue of Safe Community Weekly News in 2004, the electronic Safe Community Weekly News is edited by the Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre- a WHO CC Affiliated Safe Community Support Centre on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

### WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

In this issue:

- CONFERENCE: **13th International Conference on Safe Communities, Czech.**
- NETWORK: **European Safe Community Network, ESCON**
- DESIGNATION: **Vågå Safe Community, Norway**
- WORKSHOP: **Burn Survivor Jamboree 2004, South Africa**

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## 13th International Conference on Safe Communities

Prague, Czech Republic  
2-4 June 2004  
[www.13safecomm.com](http://www.13safecomm.com)

**Early registration (fee 350 EUR) to Monday, March 15, 2004.**

Second announcement, program schedule and online registration for the conference is available now on the conference website at [www.13safecomm.com](http://www.13safecomm.com).

### Conference Secretariat

Congress Business Travel Ltd. (CBT)  
Lidická 43/66  
150 00 Prague 5, Czech Republic  
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# Join the European Safe Community Network ESCON

The European Safe Community Network (ESCON) is a membership network created in response to the international need to share information and resources focused on injury prevention and safe community concept. Give yourself the opportunity to be a part of a European safe Community Network that includes researchers, practitioners, safety promotion officers and community groups, other agencies and institutions working with safe community model.

ESCON strategy does targets increasing safe communities in Europe. The ESCON network is a connection to current information on injury prevention, safety promotion and practical ways to achieve and improve safe communities.

When you join the European Safe Community Network, you will have the opportunity to:

- Be current with the latest research information
- Be current with the latest safe communities activities
- Increase effective professional development opportunities
- Find out about successful community safety promotion strategies and programs

As a Network member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Discuss injury prevention and safety promotion issues with other ESCON members
- Network with other professionals across the Europe who, like you, care about the future of our communities
- Collaborate with other ESCON members on shared resources and information and create bilateral projects and programs
- Access work in progress
- Learn about upcoming events
- Contribute to the group's activities
- Explore related resources.

Many health professionals, community leaders, government officials, and applied academics have already joined. Network members are expected to be active in the field of the safe community and injury prevention.

To join the Network, Please send us an email to [rahim@norsafety.no](mailto:rahim@norsafety.no) with your contact information details to update the member directory on the European Safe Community Network website [www.safecommunity.net/ESCON/](http://www.safecommunity.net/ESCON/)

Looking forward to having you with us.

Sincerely yours

Yousif Rahim  
Chairman  
European Safe Community Network

## Vågå municipality designated as a Safe Community Norway, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2004



On 4<sup>th</sup> March at the cultural house in Vågå, the vågå municipality designated as a safe Community. The Safe Community agreement signed by Ms. Inge Kristiansen representing WHO CC, Mr. Rune Øygaard mayor of Vågå municipality and Mr. Tor Arne Gangsø director of administration in Vågå municipality. Vågå municipality become No. 80<sup>th</sup> designated Safe Community, and No. 13<sup>th</sup> in Norway.

Vågå is a mountain municipality that covers an area of 1.349 square kilometres has 3800 inhabitants. Most parts of the community are nature- and recreational areas with different types of sceneries: Forests, cultural landscapes, bogs, lakes, rivers and mountains.



The municipality attracts a lot of tourists, there are good opportunities for many different types of outdoor life in Vågå. Sport injuries are one the main types of the injuries in the area.

In relation with designating of Vågå as Safe Community a seminar on injury prevention arranged with focus on Safe Community work and sport injury in the region.



Dr. Roar Rønning from Innlandet hospital presenting prevention of sport injuries



Jakob Linhave and Bent Olav Olsen from Directorate of Social and Health Affairs presenting Safe community as a concept



Svien Holem director of health and Social in Vågå presenting Safe Community activities in Vågå



Hans Spakrud, Leader of Vågå Red Cross presenting organising the rescue work

# BURN SURVIVOR JAMBOREE 2004

*"There are no hopeless situations in life; there are only people who have grown hopeless about them".*

Claire Boothe Luce

## Surviving Burn Injury

Burns are a leading cause of death and injury to young children in South Africa (NIMSS 2001). A special and unforgettable camp experience for children and teenagers who have experienced injuries from burns is being offered.

### Introduction

The social and psychological effects experienced by burn survivors are a heavy burden on the shoulders of a little child, who just wants to play with other kids.

Burn Camps provide the setting for burn survivors to share their common experiences while being able to play and not feel self conscious about what others may be thinking of their scars. The Burn Camp will provide campers with some of the best friends they will ever make. After camp, the children will continue on with their own lives but it will be different - they will have new friends and realize that they are not the only one with a burn injury.

### The purpose of the Burn Survivors Jamboree

Reintegration back into school and society in general is often traumatic and difficult. The Burn Survivor Jamboree is an outreach programme which addresses these issues.

Such programmes have been proven to greatly assist in the long-term rehabilitation of children suffering a serious burn injury. Among the benefits of such programmes for the burns survivors are:

- Greater sense of achievement
- Higher self esteem
- Self confidence
- Knowing they are not alone
- Sharing of experiences
- Making friends and having fun

**The mission of the Burn Survivors Jamboree is to provide a safe environment for children who have experienced significant burn injuries. It is the goal of the World Burn Foundation Southern Africa to provide a non-judgemental atmosphere in which children have the opportunity to build their self-esteem as they enjoy the varied activities that make up their camp experience.**

### Burn Camp Jamboree 2003

The First Burn Survivor Jamboree in Africa was held in the Magaliesberg, North West Province from 29th September to 3rd October 2003. Thirteen burn survivors from throughout South Africa attended the camp along with four non-burn junior camp counsellors. An alliance between the organisations, Medics Against Paediatric Injuries (MAGPI), Eco-Access, Children of Fire and the World Burn Foundation (WBF) planned and facilitated this camp. A community support group based in Alexandra, the Umashesha (the quick movers) assisted as camp counsellors. International representatives from WBF Australia, Canada, Germany and the USA attended the camp to assist and observe based on their experience in burn camps worldwide.

The outcomes of this camp were so successfully and overwhelmingly met, that through this the World Burn Foundation of Southern Africa was born.

### The Burn Camp Programme

The therapeutic value of recreational camps for children with disabilities or differences is well recognised in the literature. There are many such camps designed specifically for burn-injured children around the world today.

The camping programme aims to provide a safe and supportive environment where the development of self-esteem, and a sense of community and peer support is the primary focus. With the encouragement of caring and knowledgeable staff, children on camp can be exposed to challenging physical and social skills. This gives them an opportunity not only to overcome frustrations and fears but to maximise their potential. For the older age group there is an additional focus on leadership and decision making skills.

We believe that achieving these goals requires more than just a fun and happy environment. Activity programming is designed to encourage self-awareness as well as an appreciation of the environment and well being of others, and an

expression of feelings. The staffing of camp must include those who are supportive of this process and who are experienced in facilitation of small group discussions and the development of self-awareness through activity.

Evenings always conclude with quiet group activities. Early and restful nights are essential for children and staff.

Another important feature in planning is the employment of fully qualified activity specialists who have the specific skills and safety knowledge for the instruction of activities. Also essential is the ability of these specialists to adapt activities for children with more profound disabilities such as the child who really wants to abseil but has finger amputations or auxiliary tightness. The ability to facilitate positive self esteem and team building throughout the activities also requires an understanding of the needs of children with burn injuries and a willingness to identify with the goals of the programme.

All staff are well versed with burn injuries and comprise a multidisciplinary team.

The benefits of camp are difficult to quantify. Stories of children overcoming withdrawn and antisocial behaviour are important guidelines as to the success of camp. Often, for some children, camp is the first real encounter with others and their burn scars. This can help them place their own situation into perspective and share openly their emotional fears. It is hoped that when children leave camp they take a sense of achievement and empowerment with them back to home, school and community.

Looking at experiences from other countries that now have established annual or bi-annual burn camps there are some lessons to be learned and we intend on making the burns camp a yearly activity. In this regard, several workshops entitled "Surviving Burn Injury" are planned for Gauteng and the Cape. Presentations will include burn prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

In order to ensure that future burns camps are successful and that the lessons learned can be replicated, the University of Pretoria will be assisting in the design of the camp. This will also be beneficial to the children attending the camp as specific activities will be developed to ensure that the appropriate therapeutic recreation is achieved.

The qualified staff will also be participating in an orientation session presented by the World Burns Foundation which is designed to prepare them to deal with the special needs of burn survivors as well as to build a cohesive team.

The burn survivors camp will be free to all children who have suffered burn injuries, usually to at least 15% of their bodies. Children will be transported to the campsite at no cost to them and camp activities and accommodations are financed by donations.

*An initiative such as this would need the greater support of many other South Africans, government, NGO's and business alike.*

### **Burn Camp 2004 – Western Cape**

Prof. Rode, head of paediatric surgery at the Red Cross Childrens Hospital has 900 burn survivors under his care at this hospital alone. We are planning to take twenty young burn survivors on this camp.

Accompanying the twenty burn survivors will be non-burn children who are community volunteers and will be trained as camp counsellors. Two workshops will be conducted prior to the camp in order to prepare and train these volunteers. The latter two groups enable us to fulfil two other very important roles in the community. Firstly the non-burn children, through their practical experience on these camps, act as advocates for inclusion and burn prevention education. Secondly, the volunteers will train new volunteers for the local communities.

Government and Non-government organisations will also participate in the workshops, bringing multi-disciplinary experience and skill to enhance and forge a comprehensive team approach to effectively deal with the burns issue in South Africa.

### ***Workshop Programme***

The goal of this workshop is to create an awareness of issues regarding the survival of burn injury and to establish a network of the various role-players, including burn survivors, in order to collaborate and strengthen communication between these organisations on a national level.

### ***Western Cape***

Venue: Red Cross Childrens Hospital (Johnson & Johnson Hall) Education Building, Klipfontein rd, Rondebosch

## Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004

- 09:00 Introduction to Burn Injuries – Professor Rode (Head of Paediatric Surgery Red Cross Childrens Hospital)
- 10:00 Cost of Burn Injury – Dr Rene Albertyn (Red Cross Childrens Hospital)
- 11:30 Burn Morbidity and Mortality in SA – Crime, Violence and Injury Lead Programme, Medical Research Council
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:00 Counselling the Victim, Finding the Survivor – Stephen Williams (World Burn Foundation)

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004

- 09:00 Animal Aided Therapy – Sylvia Willemburg
- 10:00 Counselling the parent of the burn survivor - Sister Caroline Dreyer
- 11:30 Train the Trainer – Stephen Williams (World Burn Foundation)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:00 Preventing Burn Injuries – Chief Ed Kirtley
- 15:00 Tea and Closure

## 21, 22, 23 May

Burn Survivors Camp – Western Cape

Venue: Parmalat Enviro Centre, Soetwater – visit [www.parmalatenviro.co.za](http://www.parmalatenviro.co.za)

## 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Burn Survivors Camp - Gauteng

### Conclusion

It is envisaged that a group of burned volunteers will be established after this camp in order to further the camp objectives and also to provide burns prevention education particularly to schools. This is the area that the fire services and injury prevention specialists can play a major role in supporting these burn volunteers with outreach programmes, visiting schools and proactive prevention measures.

In conclusion, making a difference is what these programmes are all about. If this happens for just one child then it's all worth the effort.

**Note:** a video of the burn survivors jamboree 2003 is available on request.

### Contacts in South Africa

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**Please send your activities, programs and reports via post/ e-mail to the editor: Yousif Rahim [rahim@norsafety.no](mailto:rahim@norsafety.no)**

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