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Characteristics of patients with burn injuries admitted to General Hospital, Colombo and Lady Ridgeway Hospital.

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Hundred and ninety three patients with burn injuries admitted to general hospital Colombo and Lady Ridgeway children's hospital Colombo during 1st of May to 7th August 1994 were included in the study. It was observed that most of the burns occurred in the domestic environment (88.6 per cent), between 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. (59.6 per cent), were accidental in nature (84.4 per cent) and of the flame type (64.8 per cent). Kerosene oil bottle lamps were responsible for 56.8 per cent of all flame burns and 87.3 per cent of these burns were caused by bottle lamps with loose wick carriers. Following recommendations were made in relation to the result of the study general public should be educated regarding the prevention of burns and proper first aid measures. Usage of kerosene oil lamps should be discourage. In the absence of an alternative, only safe kerosene oil lamps with fixed wick carries should be used. Improvement of medical care for the burn patients at all levels of health care institutions is highly recommended.