



Louie Delaware  
**The Home Safety Guru™**

## **US Safety Pros, LLC**

1139 West Enclave Circle  
Louisville, CO 80027  
(303) 726-6828

[www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com)  
[Louie@USSafetyPros.com](mailto:Louie@USSafetyPros.com)  
[www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com)

Media Contact: Allison Taylor  
Paravox  
Phone 303-956-2280

### Over 90% Of Hot Water Heaters Pose Hazards To Young Children & Elderly People

**LOUISVILLE, CO** – September 4, 2007 – Every day, over 300 young children are taken to emergency rooms with burn injuries due to hot water scalds. Scald burns are the most common burn injury for children 4 years and under. Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru™**, states, “Hot water can burn just like a fire. Over 90% of the homes we go in to childproof have the water temperature set too high for children. It should be no higher than 120° F. At this temperature, it will take 5 minutes to get a 3rd degree burn for a young child. But at 145° F, this time drops dramatically to less than 2 seconds. has established a number of key statistics for child safety.”

Louie continues, “We have seen many homes where the temperature is in excess of 160° F. Unfortunately, most parents are not aware of this significant hazard in their home. These same temperatures can also scald elderly people as well.”

Louie’s recommendations are:

- ◆ **Measure The Hot Water Temperature** – The best time to do this is in the morning 1 hour after people have showered. Use a digital meat thermometer to measure the maximum temperature. If the temperature is above 120°, you will need to lower the setting.
- ◆ **Changing Electrical Hot Water Heaters** – Call your local electric company to adjust the thermostat. Some companies offer this service at no-charge. Hot water should not be used for at least two hours prior to setting. To make the adjustment yourself, start by shutting off current to the water heater, then turn off the circuit breaker to the heater or remove the fuse that serves the heater. Most electric water heaters have two thermostats, both of which must be set to a common temperature for proper operation. To reach these thermostats you must remove

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the upper and lower access panels. Adjust the thermostat following the instructions provided with the appliance.

- ◆ **Changing Gas Water Heaters** – Because thermostats differ, call your local gas company for instructions. If reading is too high, adjust thermostat on heater, according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ **Changing Boiler-Based Water Heaters** - If you have a boiler that is used to heat your home and your hot water, you may want to contact a heating specialist as you don't want to adversely affect your home's heating system.
- ◆ **Retest** - You will need to re-test the water temperature at least 1 day later to ensure it is properly set.
- ◆ **Running Out Of Hot Water** – If after you lower the hot water temperature and you find that you are frequently running out of hot water, don't be tempted to set the temperature higher. Instead, you can install a larger capacity hot water heater, a second hot water heater working in tandem with the original heater, or install an on-demand tankless hot water heater.

Louie continues, "The unfortunate thing of this is that people just don't think a scald could happen to their children, and/or they are just not aware of the possibility, often with very tragic consequences. A little bit of proactive work can go a long way to keeping your family safe."

For more information about Louie's 90% Rules, go to [www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com).

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*Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru**<sup>™</sup>, president and founder of US Safety Pros, LLC is a Certified Child & Home Safety Professional in all aspects of home safety, from childproofing to home safety, radon testing & mitigation along with fire, carbon monoxide and barrier free construction. US Safety Pros has been protecting homes in Colorado for over 3 years, and has helped safeguard over 500 homes.*

*For more information about Louie Delaware, go to his web site, [www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com). **The Home Safety Guru**<sup>™</sup> is a registered trademark with the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Louie's book **Relax – Your Child's Safe – A Practical Guide to Childproofing** will be published soon.*

*Louie has been on Channels 7, 9 and 31, 850 KOA, 630 KHOW, AM760, KGFT Colorado Springs and in the Denver Post. Colorado Childproofers is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide ([www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org)), the International Association for Child Safety ([www.IAFCS.org](http://www.IAFCS.org)). See us at [www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com), the [Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau](#) and [Tom Martino's Troubleshooter Referral Network](#).*

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