

## **FOOD NEWS & TRENDS**

### **Microwave-related burns increasing among children**

Nearly 1100 children under the age of 14 years old suffered microwave-related burns last year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Some companies are now marketing microwave meals directly to children, which could pose even greater concern. "Children should not be allowed to use microwave ovens without adult supervision," declared Mary Anne Jackson, President and founder of My Own Meals, Inc. My Own Meals® packages clearly state, "These meals are to be prepared by an adult, not by children."

Now that there are products and advertising which encourage young children to use microwave ovens, a greater number of children will be exposed to the risk of serious burn injuries unless preventative measures are taken, according to Matt Maley, Director of Risk Management for Shriner's Burns Institute. Young children do not have the reasoning, physical balance, or motor skills necessary to operate microwave ovens or conventional appliances. Parents should first determine whether their child has the ability of using all aspects of a conventional oven or stove-top before using the microwave oven.