

## Brain Injury Dialogues: Introduction #1

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**Video Link:** <http://www.brainline.org/content/multimedia.php?id=1596>

[ Silence ]

[ Background noise ]

**Dirk:** I was stabbed I lost a lot, a lot of blood and when you lose blood you lose oxygen to the brain and then all kinds of neurological deficits ensue, which in my case made me blind and talk funny. Where is the water?

**Caregiver:** Back here?

**Dirk:** Yeah, alright, okay, so this light should come on -- I have no shame about it, if I'm meeting someone hey Joe I'm Dirk, I don't say hey Joe I'm Brandon Dirk but if it becomes a main issue and of course a discussion or a plan I will mention that.

**Caregiver:** This is a straight line.

**Dirk:** When the work is overhead.

**Caregiver:** Right, yeah, not the underground one.

[ Background noise ]

**Nani:** I have a vague recollection of it being totally black, billows of black smoke and not being able to see anything. But, again, I don't know if that was the fire or if that was the coma after the fire. You know, I got to the front door and the fireman, what I'm told, had hatcheded down the front door and burst it down on top of me and ran in. You know, and by then things were cinders were falling and boards were falling and stuff like that.

**Male Interviewer:** A burning house fell on you essentially?

**Nani:** Yeah, yeah --

**Male Interviewer:** And also was it because maybe the smoke too, like an oxygen --

**Nani:** Yeah, I had --

**Male Interviewer:** to the brain?

**Nani:** Yeah, they actually didn't think I was gonna make it they thought I was gonna die. I was in the Intensive Care for a long time. I can remember complaining about how the back of my head hurt, you know, and how numb my head was and I can remember being in a bed in the Cardiac Unit with some other woman that was in there for I don't know what and complaining and -- about, you know, my head hurting and different things and they weren't paying any attention to me. And I can remember that doctor saying, you know, you're doing fine to the lady next to me you're not like her, or something like that and I assumed that he meant that I was crazy.

[ Music ]

**Male Voiceover:** Nani's brain injury occurred over 25 years ago. During her stay in the hospital Nani wasn't diagnosed with a brain injury and it's still not uncommon for this to happen. Without support from her family or friends Nani found herself living on the streets.

**Nani:** I would sleep in parks or in doorways. For years I had, you know -- just like one pair of pants and a couple of t-shirts and one pair of -- one set of underwear.

[ Music ]

[ Silence ]