

Candle Safety

Candles provide great warmth and ambiance to any home. It is easy to forget that such a calming artifact is an open flame that can reach 1,400 °C. Most candle fires begin in the bedroom – with a mattress or bedding cited as the first item to ignite – except during the holidays, when more people use candles precariously too close to decorations. Furniture and plastics are also cited as the first items in the home to catch fire from a lit candle.



Statistics reveal that the most common causes of fire are:

- Leaving candles unattended.
- Falling asleep while a candle is lit.
- Using candles for light.
- Candles located too close to burnable objects.
- Candles knocked over by children, pets or sudden drafts.

The number of fires started by candles is increasing. To prevent candles from starting a fire in your home, adhere to the following:

- DO NOT leave a burning candle unattended. If you leave the room, blow out the candle.
- Always place lit candles on a stable surface so a candle does not tip over and ignite material underneath it.
- Lit candles should be placed in a non-combustible, sturdy holder that can contain any excess wax that may drip from the candle.
- Place candles away from absolutely anything that could catch fire (curtains, paper, plants, table decorations).
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and air currents.
- Request that children and teens not light candles; instead provide them with battery-operated candles.
- Never close the lid on a burning or warm candle.