



Candle Safety



Richmond Fire Prevention
646-6640

Candles can be beautiful and romantic. Unfortunately, they can also be deadly. Here are a few safety tips to keep you and your family from being a fire statistic.

General Candle Safety

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammable decorations).
- Use candleholders that are sturdy, will not tip over easily, are made from a material that cannot burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Place candleholders on a sturdy surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over.
- Extinguish candles when they get within two inches of the holder or decorative material.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Avoid carrying a lit candle. Do not use a lit candle when searching for items.
- Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights on gas fired equipment, it may ignite the fumes.

Holidays and Candles

- December is the peak month for candle fires, with nearly twice the average number of incidents.
- Never use real candles to decorate a Christmas tree. Open flames from candles often lead to fire.
- Follow all the general safety tips listed above.

Kids and Candles

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Keep candles up high out of reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle.
- Store candles, matches and lighters up high and out children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Do not put candles in a location where children or pets could knock them over.

Power Outages

- Observe all the general fire safety tips
- Never use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the house or when going to sleep.
- Flashlights and other lights generated by batteries are much safer light sources than candles.