

Candle Safety Tips

It is important to remember that a candle flame is a small fire that can very easily start a large, dangerous fire.

Did you know?

- ◆ Candle-related fires go up by 140 per cent during the winter holiday season.
- ◆ Most candle fires happen in bedrooms and living/family rooms and ignite bedding and furniture.
- ◆ Failing to put out a burning candle before going to bed accounts for the majority of deaths and injuries in candle related fires.
- ◆ Most candle fires involve human error — leaving a candle unattended or leaving a candle near combustible materials (e.g., curtains, furniture, decorations)
- ◆ Unsupervised children may play with candles because they are curious and are fascinated by the flame.
- ◆ Consumers assume that their candle holders are safe, and don't expect the candles to tip over or the holders to break or catch fire, yet they can.

How can candles be used safely?

- ◆ **Never leave burning candles unattended.**
- ◆ Put candles out if the flame becomes unusually large. Never let a candle burn down to the bottom.
- ◆ Avoid using candles whenever possible, and if candles are used, keep flammable and combustible materials as far from the flame as possible.
- ◆ Mount candles on non-combustible holders that won't tip over and are big enough to collect dripping wax.
- ◆ Do not place lit candles in windows where blinds or curtains may close over them, and don't use them in places where children or pets could knock them over.
- ◆ Snuff candles out when leaving the room or going to sleep. Remember that 70 per cent of fire deaths related to candle fires happened because people were asleep at the time of the fire.
- ◆ Never leave children or pets alone in a room with lit candles. Children can play with the flame and start a fire or be burned. Do not allow older children to light candles in their bedroom—a forgotten candle is all it takes to start a fire.
- ◆ Exercise caution when using candles as a source of light during power outages. Many destructive fires start during such times as potential fire hazards can go unnoticed in the dark.
- ◆ Never use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as a camp-fuel heater or lantern.
- ◆ When buying or using novelty candles, try to determine if they pose a potential fire threat. If they do, or you suspect they might, inform your local fire department or the Product Safety Programme of Health Canada in Edmonton or Calgary.

For more information, please call (780) 427-8392 or visit www.gov.ab.ca/ma/fco.