

PREVENT CANDLE FIRES – CANDLE SAFETY TIPS

Candles add an ambiance to surroundings and are a prominent part in some ceremonies. As a result, the popularity of candles is on the increase with record candle sales predicted by the National Candle Association. The increase in candle usage comes with a price though - an increase in fires caused by candles. Candle fires account for less than one percent of fires in Nebraska. Each year since 2000 has seen an increase in the number of fires caused by candles. Following these safety tips will help prevent fires caused

Safety Tips:

- 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 candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them (e.g. twigs, flowers, or leaves).

Candles & Children:

- Keep candles up high out of reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Store candles, matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

During Power Outages:

- Try to avoid carrying a lit candle. Don't use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space.
- Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.