



CANDLE SAFETY

The U.S. Fire Administration reported that candle fires accounted for an estimated 4% of all reported home fires in 2005. These fires resulted in an estimated 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries, and an estimated direct property loss of \$539 million.

To prevent candle fires in your home, please consider the following recommendations from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Use sturdy, safe candleholders.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish candles when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing a candle.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Always use a flashlight – not a candle – for emergency lighting.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- Remember - keep candles out of children's reach. Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets, or anyone else.
- Store candles, matches, and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach.
- Keep candles away from natural and artificial Christmas trees.
- Keep candles away from holiday decorations.



Facts & Figures (provided by U.S. Fire Administration)

- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December 2005, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- More than half of all candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- Falling asleep while a candle was burning accounted for 12% of home candle fires.
- The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve, and Halloween.

