

Candle Safety

Candle fires have been rising dramatically over the past few years. Candles are used for many different reasons, religious, national celebrations, holidays, birthdays, even for socializing and relaxation purposes. These fires result in million of dollars in property damage and kill hundreds of civilians each year.

Over **one-third** of the fires started by candles were left unattended, abandoned, or poorly controlled.

Follow these simple instructions when dealing when handling candles in your home or business:

- ❑ Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or when going to sleep.
Never leave a burning candle unattended!!
- ❑ Keep candles at least 1 foot away from things that can catch fire such as clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammables decorations or anything else that will burn.
- ❑ Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, made from material that cannot burn, and a large enough to collect dripping wax.
- ❑ Use flashlights for temporary lighting during power outages – not candles. Keep plenty of batteries on hand during storm seasons.
- ❑ Burn candles in a well ventilated room. A buildup of Carbon Monoxide gases may result from burning multiple candles.
- ❑ Do not allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms
- ❑ Do not place lit candles in windows where blinds or curtains can quickly catch fire.
- ❑ Do not use candle in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- ❑ When purchasing or using candles, consider what would happen if the candle burned low. Could it burn the candle holder or decorative materials nearby?
- ❑ Avoid candles with combustibles items made within the candle.
- ❑ Trim candle wicks to one quarter inch before using

If a fire should occur....

- ❑ Close the door to stop the spread of fire.
- ❑ Sound an alarm and alert others to the fire danger.
- ❑ Once you've exited the residence **Stay out!** Do not return into the fire danger area.

For further information contact Public Affairs Section at (323) 881-2411 or visit our web site www.fire.lacounty.gov.



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