

CANDLE FIRE FACTS

1998	12,540 FIRES
1996	9,930 FIRES

THE NUMBER OF FIRES CAUSED BY CANDLES IS RISING EVERY YEAR!

In 1998, candles caused 12,540 home fires. This included 157 deaths, 1,106 injuries and \$176 million in property damages. As the above graph shows, the numbers are rising.

(As of publishing date, 1998 is the last year statistics on home candle fires were available from the NFPA)

THE RISKY LIGHT YOU CAN REDUCE THE RISK!

In case of emergencies, always use flashlights, battery powered lamps or glowsticks. Relying on burning candles for illumination during power outages only increases the risk factor.

Fire experts have determined that nearly half of candle home fires start in the bedroom. Do not use candles in the bedroom, as it is a fire hazard.

Always keep candles safely clear of flammable materials or liquids. A good rule is to allow at least three feet of space between candles and anything that can burn.

Be sure candle flames are never exposed to drafts near windows or doorways where the flame could be blown toward flammable materials.

BE CAUTIOUS WITH CANDLES

CARELESS USE OF CANDLES CAN KILL!

Always use stable and secure candle holders. Make sure that-

- They can't be knocked over easily.
- They're not made of material that can burn or melt.
- They have a reservoir to collect the melted wax.

Always place candles where they are away from cluttered surfaces, and edges of tables, shelves or counters where they could be accidentally tipped over.

Always be careful when lighting candles. Make sure loose hair and clothing cannot come in contact with the flame.

Extinguish candles with care. Do not allow them to burn down below two inches above the rim of the holder. Use a candle snuffer or a soft blowing breath. Make sure all wicks are dead out.



KIDS, CANDLES & CARE



ALWAYS KEEP CANDLES AND MATCHES SAFELY LOCKED AWAY!

Don't let children think of candles as toys or "fun" things to play with. Teach them that, like matches and lighters, candles must be handled by adults with care.

Always watch children when they are near burning candles, especially in a party or festive atmosphere where excitement could lead to carelessness.

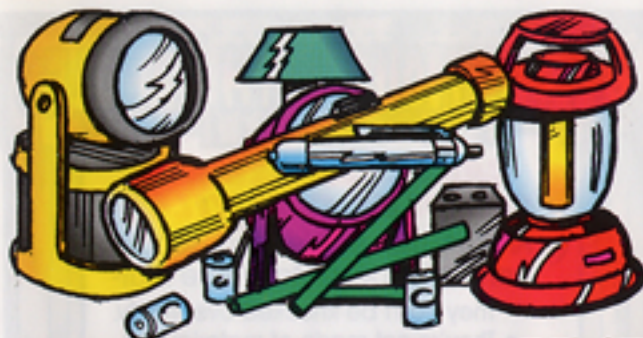
Never permit youngsters or teens to have candles in their bedrooms. Candles are deadly.

Out of sight, out of mind! Keep all candles, matches and lighters locked out of reach and out of sight.

CELEBRATING WITH CANDLES

During the holiday season, more fires occur in areas of the home where candles are used to play a traditional role in the celebrations. If you must use candles during the holidays, be especially mindful of the following safety pointers:

- Keep all candles safely away from Christmas trees, artificial or natural. Remember that the drier a tree becomes, the more readily it will ignite!
- Keep candles away from hanging holiday decorations and centerpieces. A safe minimum distance is three feet.
- With the excitement and company of the holiday festivities, people often are more careless. Make sure all candles are safely out of the way, clear of traffic and can't be accidentally knocked over.



BATTERIES ARE BEST

Don't rely on candles for lighting during power outages or other emergencies. Candles are dangerous under normal conditions. Using candles in emergency situations only raises the level of risks.

Be sure you have an adequate supply of flashlights, batteries, battery operated lamps or emergency glowsticks on hand for use during power outage.

- IF YOU MUST USE CANDLES IN AN EMERGENCY:** Avoid carrying lit candles from one place to another.
- Keep candle flames far from flammable liquids like kerosene, naphtha or gases like butane which might be used as fuel in emergency heaters.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.
- Never leave children alone and without supervision in areas candles are burning for illumination.
- Pets can knock over candles! Be sure to take care of pets to keep them safely away from hazardous areas.



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THE RISKY LIGHT CANDLES NOT TOO BRIGHT

12,000 FIRES A YEAR!



LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

"OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY"