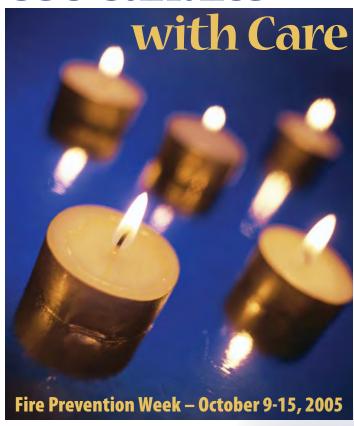
Use Candles



MOST CURRENT STATISTICS

In 2002, an estimated 18,600 candle fires in residential structures resulted in 130 deaths and 1,375 injuries. Of these candle fires:

- 39% occurred in bedrooms.
- 37% occurred between the hours of 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- → 75% occurred in single family homes or duplexes.
- 21% occurred in multifamily dwellings.
- Months with more incidents of candle-caused residential fires are October through March, with a dramatic increase during the December – January holidays to 23%.

In all residential structure fires in 2002:

- Bedding and upholstered furniture were the materials first ignited in 38% of child fatality fires, with lighters and candles being the primary heat sources.
- For fires that resulted in injuries to one or more children, the leading cause was open flame (25%).
- Open flame was the second leading fire cause that resulted in fatalities of one or more children (28%) and one or more older adults (19%).

Sources: Data from 2002 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Fire Loss in the United States During 2002.

TRAGIC AND PREVENTABLE EXAMPLES

- Three unattended children died in a fire that was started by a burning candle.
- ♣ A lighted candle ignited the hair of a person who fell asleep on a couch causing only minor burns but the ensuing fire killed a 9 year old and severely injured another family member.
- A student died when a lighted candle ignited her bedding.
- Eleven members of a family died in a fire when a lighted candle ignited a mattress.
- Two children died in a fire when a lighted candle rolled under the Christmas tree.
- A mother and young baby died when a burning candle used for religious observances ignited cabinetry.

FACT: The majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence.

CANDLE SAFETY TIPS

- Avoid using lighted candles.
- If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters, and fire carefully.
- Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters or candles.
- Never put candles on a Christmas tree.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Extinguish candles after use.
- **Establish a fire-safe home, especially a safe sleeping environment.**
- ♦ And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY LINKS

www.usfa.fema.gov/safety/
www.usfa.fema.gov/subjects/fireprev/
www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/
www.firesafety.gov
www.nfpa.org

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