



# Safety with Candles

Community Fire Safety Operational Guide

Instructor Guideline

<b>Lesson Focus</b>	<p><b>Over half of the fires started in homes across America caused by candles are due to them being placed too close to combustible materials such as curtains, bedding, and greenery.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The focus of this lesson is to stress the importance of ensuring candles are always burned in a noncombustible container and are always placed away from all combustibles.</li></ul> <p>The instructor must emphasize to participants that candles <b>MUST</b> be completely extinguished before participants leave their home or go to sleep.</p>
Notes	
<b>Lesson Objectives</b>	<p><b>Objective 1.</b> The participant will understand the importance of safe candle placement in the home.</p> <p><b>Objective 2.</b> The instructor must ensure that participants are aware of battery-operated candles and how they provide a safe alternative to traditional candles.</p> <p><b>Objective 3.</b> The instructor will ensure participants understand the dangers of placing candles in areas that cause drafts.</p> <p><b>Objective 4.</b> The participant will understand the proper methods of extinguishing a candle.</p> <p><b>Objective 5.</b> The participant will recognize the proper types of containers to use as candle holders.</p>
Notes	
<b>Suggested Teaching Props</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handouts for all participants</li><li>• Candle and proper container</li><li>• A battery-operated candle (if available)</li></ul>



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## Instructional Points

Notes

## Participant Review

1. You can place a candle in a wreath, as long as it is in a proper container?  
*True or False*
2. What are the two preferable types of containers to burn candles in?  
*Glass or Metal*
3. What is a safe alternative to wax candles? *Oil Lamp or Battery-Operated Candle*
4. You can leave the home with a candle burning, as long as you get back in 15 minutes?  
*True or False*
5. It is safe to extinguish a candle with a small amount of water? *True or False*

### When burning candles in your home, always consider the following safety tips:

- Never place a candle near anything that could potentially catch on fire, particularly bedding, draperies, paper or decorations, or on a carpeted surface.
- Never place a burning candle in greenery, such as table decorations, wreaths or a Christmas tree.
- Never place a candle on a fireplace hearth or shelf where there is something hanging above, such as a picture or wreath.
- Never place a candle where a curtain or drapery could be blown into the flame of the wick.
- Be extremely cautious when utilizing candles during power outages. Never use a candle as a light source in closets or to assist with fueling equipment such as generators or oil lamps.

### The following items regarding battery-operated candles should be reviewed.

- Battery-powered candles are safe, cool and flameless.
- Consider investing in battery-powered candles for your decoration needs.
- Battery-powered candles come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors and give the identical appearance of a traditional candle.
- Many battery-powered candles are rechargeable, providing a lifetime of use for a minimal investment.

### Review the following areas to stay away from when burning candles.

- Do not burn candles close to ceiling fans, HVAC vents, or HVAC returns.

### Participants should know the proper steps to take when extinguishing a candle.

- The easiest method of extinguishing a candle is to utilize a candle snuffer.
- Never extinguish a candle with water, as water can cause hot wax to splatter. You also can cause a glass container to break.

### Review with participants the proper types of container to place candles in to burn.

- Always ensure your candles are placed in a sturdy and fireproof container designed for candle use, preferably glass or metal.
- The candle holder should be large enough to catch all dripping and melting wax from the candle.
- Never utilize a candle in a closet or to assist with refueling equipment such as lamps or generators.