

# Safety with Candles



Community Fire Safety Operational Guide

Participant Guideline line

## Safe Use of Candles in Your Home

- Always ensure your candles are placed in a sturdy and fireproof container designed for candle use, preferably one made of glass or metal.
- The candle holder should be large enough to catch all dripping and melting wax from the candle.
- Always place the candle holder on a sturdy and heat-resistant surface and ensure it is out of reach of little hands and four-legged friends.
- Never touch a burning candle, and never attempt to move a candle when the wax is liquid or when the candle is still burning.
- Ensure your candle is completely extinguished and the wick has stopped glowing before you leave the room where the candle is located.
- Be extremely cautious when using 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.



## Five Quick Tips

- 1.** Make sure there is plenty of clearance above and around your candles before lighting them.
- 2.** Each time before you light any candle, trim the candle wick to ¼ inch in length.
- 3.** If a candle smokes or flickers excessively, or the flame burns extremely high, extinguish the candle and let cool down. Then trim the wick to ¼ inch and relight.
- 4.** The easiest method of extinguishing a candle is to use a candle snuffer.
- 5.** Never extinguish a candle with water, as the water can cause the hot wax to splatter. You also can cause glass containers to break.

## Candle Placement

- Never place a candle near anything that could potentially catch on fire, particularly bedding, draperies, paper and 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 near play areas for children or four-legged friends.
- Place candles in areas that are away from vents, ceiling fans and drafty areas where items could be blown into the flame.

## Battery-Powered Candles

- 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 appearance of a traditional candle.
- Many battery-powered candles are rechargeable, providing a lifetime of use for a minimal investment.

**Check your candles one minute after you blow them out to ensure they have not reignited.**

**"Smoke Detectors and Exit Drills in the Home...A Plan You Can Live With"**