



Candles – Why So Many Candle Fires?

Candles are used today for a number of reasons- their scent and aroma, the practice of relaxation, religious, romantic, or simple power outages.

Candles today are made in every scent size and shape. As their popularity grows, so does the risk of fire and fire deaths. Almost half of all candle fires start in the **bedroom**. In the month of **December**, almost twice as many home candle fires occur-more than any other time of year.

Following some common sense fire safety tips when using candles can make a huge difference:

- Don't leave the room and leave a candle unattended, or go to sleep with a candle burning;
- Keep candles a safe distance from anything combustible such as curtains, paper, clothing, Christmas trees, etc.;
- Keep candles out of the path of children and pets, and keep them in a sturdy container that is hard to knock over;
- Do not allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms;
- Put candles on a sturdy, heat-resistant surface;
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to ¼" and discard candles that are close to the bottom of the holder.

Unattended inadequately controlled candles accounted for 37% of all candle related fires. More often than anything else, bedding was ignited in a candle fire.

Stop and think when you light that candle. Eliminate the hazards and enjoy with caution. Remember, big fires start small.

