



CANDLE SAFETY



Facts and Figures

- During 2004, candles in U.S. homes caused an estimated 17,200 reported fires, 200 deaths, 1,540 injuries, and over \$200 million in estimated direct property damage.
- The estimated number of home candle fires fell 6% from 2003 to 2004. The number of reported home candle fires has finally started to fall after climbing steadily from 1990 to 2001.
- Candle fires accounted for an estimated 4% of all reported home fires in 2004.
- 41% of home candle fires started in the bedroom, resulting in 35% of the associated civilian deaths.
- December has almost twice the number of home candle fires of an average month.
- More than half (54%) of home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left of came to close to the candle. The candle was unattended or abandoned in 20% of the incidents, 4% were started by people playing with candles.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 25% of the associated deaths.
- Christmas Day was the peak of the year for home candle fires in 2000-2004. Christmas Eve ranked second and New Years Day was third.

Safety Tips

- Put candles securely in a non-tip candle holder.
- Keep candles well away from Christmas trees, decorations, curtains, and other combustibles, and never put candles on windowsills or near exits. Keep candles at least 1 foot away from things that can catch fire.
- Don't leave your candles unattended or within the reach of small children.
- Blow candles out before you leave the room or go to sleep.
- A hurricane globe with a sturdy, non-tip candle holder is a safer way to use a candle.
- Always make sure an adult is present when a candle is lit, and extinguish the candle when you leave the room.
- Keep a watchful eye on children and pets when candles are lit.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and place them well away from the tree branches.

- During power outages, avoid carrying a lit candle, use a flashlight.
- NFPA discourages the use of candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Trim candle wicks to one-quarter inch before lighting.
- Extinguish candles when they burn to within two inches of their holder.