



Candle Fire Safety

Residential candle fires jumped 20% from 1998 to 1999, the latest year for which statistical data is available. During 1999 an estimated 15,040 residential candle fires were reported to public fire departments in America. These fires resulted in 102 deaths, 1,473 injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$278 million.

Because candles are an important part of many holiday celebrations, the Anaheim Fire Department would like to provide the following safety tips to assist you in preventing the loss of life and property resulting from candle fires:

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire such as clothing, books, paper and curtains.
- Use sturdy candleholders that won't easily tip over, are made of a material that can't burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Place candleholders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and don't use candles in places where children or pets can knock them over.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Trim candlewicks to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within 2 inches of the holder. Votive candles should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.
- Keep candles up high, out of reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Store candles, matches, and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

For more information contact Community Relations at 714-765-4012