CANDLE SAFETY

Candles may be nice to look at and they smell pleasant, however they are a cause of home fire fatalities. Remember, a candle is an “Open Flame,” which means that it can ignite any combustible material that comes in contact with it.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure you…..

- Keep candles at least 12” away from anything that could burn.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire.
- During a power outages have flashlights and battery- powered lighting readily available.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Candles should be placed a minimum of 3” apart from one another.
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, ceiling fans and air currents.
- Use candleholders that are heat resistant, sturdy & large enough to contain any drips of melted wax. Place candleholders on a stable, uncluttered, heat- resistant surface.
- Never use a candle as a night light.
- Extinguish a candle when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never touch or move a votive or container candle when the wax is in a liquid state.
- Extinguish a candle if the flame becomes too high, it smokes excessively, or flickers repeatedly.

CIRCUMSTANCES and CAUSES of HOME CANDLE FIRES….

- December is the peak month for home candle fires.
- Young children and older adults have the highest fatality risk from candle fires.
- Nationally, on average 42 home candle fires are reported daily.
- Falling asleep with a candle burning is a factor in twelve percent of home candle fires and thirty percent of the associated fatalities.
- Children should NEVER be permitted to play with candles, matches or lighters! Never leave a child in a room with a burning candle.

FACTS

- 50% of candle fire fatalities occur between the hours of midnight and 6am.
- 20% of candle fires begin when candles are unattended.
- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 55% of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to combustible materials.
- According to the CPSC the next most common cause of home candle fires was due to the candle falling over.
- 35% of home candle fires begin in the bedroom. More than in any other room.
- The estimated number of home candle fire injuries each year is 1,289.
- The estimated number of home candle fire fatalities annually is 166.
- On average a home candle fire is reported to a U.S. fire department every 40 minutes.
- Each year there are an estimated 12,260 home candle fires reported.
- The risk of fatal candles fires appears greater when candles are used as a light source.

TOP 5 DAYS TO EXPERIENCE A CANDLE FIRE

- Number 5 – December 23
- Number 4 – Halloween
- Number 3 – New Year’s Day
- Number 2 – Christmas Eve
- Number 1 – Christmas Day