



BIG BEAR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 558

301 W. Big Bear Blvd.

Big Bear City, CA 92314

(909) 585-2362

(909) 585-0348 Fax

www.bigbearcityfire.org

Contact: Deanne Johanson, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer
Phone #: (909) 585-2362
Cell #: (909) 731-9881
E-Mail: djohanson@bbccsd.org

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CANDLE SAFETY REMINDERS

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires!

BIG BEAR CITY, CA/December 21, 2010– Candles may be pretty to look at but they are growing cause of home fires—and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, meaning that it can easily ignite any combustible material nearby. And because candle fires spread so quickly, it's essential that you have working [smoke alarms](#) in your residence and a [home fire escape plan](#) ready to go. Follow these tips to help you use candles safely.

Reducing the Risk

- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Almost half of all home fires started by candles begin in the bedroom. NFPA discourages the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn including decorations, curtains, blinds, wallpaper, clothing or any other material that can catch fire.
- Don't place lit candles in windows or near doorways where drafts could bring combustibles in contact with the flame.
- Keep candles away from flammable liquids.



“Candle with Care”

- Use candleholders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface—away from edges and any place where they could be knocked over by kids or pets.

- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Keep candlewicks trimmed to one-quarter inch.
- Extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of their holder or any decorative material.
- Extinguish candles carefully, using a long-handled candlesnuffer or a soft, directed breath. Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing. Do not leave the room until wicks have stopped glowing.
- Avoid using candles during a power outage. Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting on hand for emergency lighting.

Candles and Kids

- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a burning candle.
- Don't allow kids or teens to burn candles in their bedrooms.
- Don't let kids play with candles or dripping wax – or with materials that could catch fire near candles.
- Store matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

An important safety message from the Big Bear City Fire Department.

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