



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and life safety.

ARE YOU READY FOR
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK?



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education / Fire causes & risks / Top fire causes / Candles

Candles



From 2012-2016, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 8,200 home structure fires that were started by candles per year. These fires caused an annual average of 80 deaths, 770 injuries and \$264 million in direct property damage.

Safety tip sheets

Candles

Learn to avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

Download the safety tip sheet.



Religious candles



If you're using candles on a candelabra kinara or menorah take a few minutes to learn about using them safely.

Download the safety tip sheet.

Sample social media posts on candle fire safety

Use these posts on your social media sites to encourage candle safety.

- On average, 23 home candle fires are reported each day. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/XR6vj> #FireFacts
- The top 3 days for home candle fires are New Year's Day, Christmas and New Year's Eve. <http://ow.ly/XR6vj> #FireFacts
- Safety tip: Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. <http://ow.ly/XR8DP>
- Read all of NFPA's candle safety tips & download our free safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/fDDS305wunP>
- In this video, tips on staying safe with candles in your home are reviewed. Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xOyMBJ-b44>
- Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles! <http://ow.ly/XR9E4>
- Safety tip: Blow out all candles before you leave a room or go to bed! <http://ow.ly/XR9E4>
- Lit candles are used in religious services, places of worship & at home. Tips on staying safe with religious candles: <http://ow.ly/XR9E4>



Remember that a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. NFPA shares a few candle fire safety tips to consider.

Candle fire facts

During the five-year period of 2012-2016:

- Candles caused 2% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 4% of the direct property damage in home fires.
- Roughly one-third (37%) of home candle fires started in bedrooms. These fires caused 30% of the associated deaths and 50% of the associated injuries.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 11% percent of the home candle fires and 21% of the associated deaths.
- On average, 23 home candle fires were reported per day.

- Three of every five (60%) of home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left or came too close to the candle.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 12% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.

Source: NFPA's Applied Research

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