



**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>

## Candle Safety Tips



*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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