

## December safety tip: Safe Candle Use

Candles are responsible for an estimated 23,600 fires each year and cause 1525 injuries, 165 fatalities and \$390,000,000 in direct property loss. The monthly occurrence of residential structure candle fire is highest in December and 24 percent of all candle related fires occur in December and January. The top 4 days are around Christmas and New Years. Sales and use of candles increases significantly during the winter holiday season and it is estimated 35% of all candles sales occur at this time.

Remember these important safety tips for candle use:

1. Never put them on a Christmas tree or wreath.
2. Never leave them burning unattended.
3. Keep them 36" away from other combustible materials.
4. Do not move them around while lit or the wax is in a liquid state.
5. Keep them high enough so they are out of reach from children (children 5 and under are at the greatest risk).
6. Keep them away from areas where they could be accidentally bumped or someone could lean against them.
7. Use a metal, ceramic, or glass holder that is capable of holding all the melted wax and will not tip over.
8. Blow them out before you go to bed (12% of candle fires occur after user falls asleep).
9. Trim wicks to ¼" .
10. Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris.
11. Do not burn the candle for longer than the manufacturer recommends.
12. Place candles 3 inches apart from one another.
13. Use a candle snuffer to extinguish the candles.
14. Keep candles away from curtains, furniture beds, or carpeting.

NIFAST hopes you have a wonderful Christmas!