



# Clallam County Fire District 3

Motto: *Serve, Respect,  
Prevent and Protect*

## Candle Safety Tips

Candles are a leading cause of house fires. The occurrence of candle fires dramatically increases during holiday and cold weather months. Fire Prevention awareness is the best way to protect your home from a deadly fire caused by candles. From 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 9,300 home structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused 86 deaths, 827 injuries and \$374 million in direct property damage.

**Facts & Figures** – During the five-year period of 2009-2013:

- ◆ On average, 25 home candle fires were reported per day.
- ◆ Candles caused 3% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 6% of home fire injuries, and 5% of the direct property damage in home fires.
- ◆ Roughly one-third (36%) of home candle fires started in bedrooms. These fires caused 32% of the associated deaths and 47% of the associated injuries.
- ◆ Falling asleep was a factor in 11% percent of the home candle fires and 30% of the deaths.
- ◆ More than half (58%) 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, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.

Source: NFPA "[Home Candle Fires](#)" report

**Always Candle  
with Care**

### Candle Safety Tips

- ✓ Never leave candles unattended.
- ✓ Make sure a grown-up is always in the room when a candle is burning.
- ✓ If a grown-up leaves the room, make sure they put out the candle first. \* Most candle fires start when candles are left unattended.
- ✓ Set up a 'kid-free' zone around burning candles: no playing with or near candles, with candle wax, or with things that could catch fire near candles.
- ✓ Keep candles at least a foot away from anything that could catch on fire.
- ✓ Don't put candles in windows or doorways where the wind could knock them over, or blow things into them that could catch on fire.
- ✓ Keep matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

**Use Candles With Care:  
When You Go Out...  
BLOW IT OUT!**

**Consider using battery operated flameless candles.  
They look and smell like real candles.**