

## Candles

A candle is an open flame and can easily ignite any nearby combustible material. Unfortunately, power outages caused by storms lead some people to use candles during this time as a light source. Such occurrences may increase the possibility of an unintentional burn injury or fire. A candle meant to decorate...can also devastate. In taking safe precautions, you and yours can prevent fires from happening.

### SAFETY TIPS:

- During a power outage, try to avoid carrying a lit candle.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the home or when going to sleep.
- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as flammable materials or liquids, clothing, books, paper, curtains, etc.
- Place candles on a heat resistant surface in sturdy holders that will not tip over. Make sure candleholders are non-combustible and are big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Keep candles in places where they cannot be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles up high, out of the reach of children.
- Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

### FACTS AND FIGURES:

- A candle is an open flame and can easily ignite any nearby combustible material.
- During a power outage, flashlights and other lights generated by batteries are much safer light sources than candles.
- Never use a candle or light when fueling equipment such as kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the vapors.
- Avoid putting candles in drafts to prevent rapid, uneven burning and excessive dripping. Drafts can blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame, where they could catch fire.
- Keep wicks trimmed to ¼ inch. Discontinue the use of a container or votive candle when ½ inch of un-melted wax remains. This will prevent possible heat damage to the counter/surface and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking. Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get down to within two inches of their holders or decorations.
- Candles should be placed at least three inches apart so they don't melt one another.
- The best way to extinguish a candle is to use a special candlesnuffer or candle quencher. Do not use your fingers.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should never sleep in a room with a lit candle.