

# PREVENT Candle Fires

## Follow the Circle of Safety

***Burn candles inside a one foot circle of safety, an area free of anything that could come in contact with the flame and burn.***

Use candles in the center of an area one-foot in every direction free of anything that could burn, such as decorations, curtains that could blow around, other items on a table or bureau. Use a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic container.

***Stay in the same room with burning candles; never leave them burning unattended.***

Most candle fires start when they are left burning unattended. Don't leave a candle burning out of your sight or when you fall asleep at night.

***Use candles out of reach of children and pets***

Many candle fires are started when pets knock them over, or when children touch or play with them.

***Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of children.***

Store in a high cabinet, preferably a locked one. You wouldn't leave a loaded gun lying around and a lighter can be just as dangerous in a child's hand.

***Teach everyone in the family the rules of safe candle use.***

Children, teenagers, grown-ups and older adults should know the rules of safe candle use.

***Candle fires have tripled in Massachusetts over the past decade!***

Candle use has risen greatly in the past decade, but unfortunately so have candle fires. They have more than tripled in Massachusetts in the past ten years.

***Candles have become one of the leading causes of fire deaths in the home in this state.***

Several people are killed, usually in their own homes, from candle fires each year.



## **FireFACTORS**

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Department of Fire Services

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