



# Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment  
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

## Community Relations / Public Education Branch

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## Candle Fire Safety

During 2005, an estimated 15,600 home structure fires started by candles were reported to local fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$539 million. Residences include Single homes, duplexes, manufactured housing and apartments.

The reports of fires started by candles have more than tripled in the last decade. Experts predict at this rate that candle fires will soon be the number one cause of residential fires in the United States. The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and increase your survival rate dramatically.

### Candle Fire Life-Saving Tips

- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.
- Use sturdy, safe candleholders.
- Protect candle flames with glass chimneys or containers.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Put candles out when you leave a room.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Wicks should be no more than one-quarter on an inch tall. Remember the taller the wick the taller the flame
- For emergency lighting use flash lights or glow sticks instead of candles
- Keep children and pets away from burning candles.
- Be careful not to splatter wax when putting out a candle.
- Never use a candle when oxygen is present.
- After lighting a candle put your matches and lighters up high, out of reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

### Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 34 minutes.
- More than half of all candle fires start when items that can burn, such as furniture, mattresses, bedding, curtains, or decorations, are too close to the candle.
- The risk of a fatal candle fire appears higher when candles are used for light.
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186