

Have a Warm and Fire-Safe Winter!



Allow your child to color the candle and draw a safe holder by connecting the dots. Teach them to stay away from lit candles. Remind them to never play with matches or lighters.

Candle Fire Season?

Candles smell pretty. They look pretty. They are ceremonial. But in 2002, according to the NFPA, there were an estimated 18,600 candle fires in residences that resulted in 130 deaths and 1375 injuries. Most candle fires occur between the months of October and March, with 23% occurring during the December—January holiday season.

How to Prevent Candle Fires

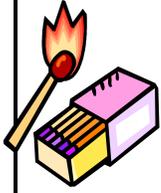
-  Never leave burning candles unattended!
-  Candles should be in sturdy metal, ceramic or glass holders, and should be placed where they can't be knocked over by children or pets.
-  Never place lit candles near things that can burn. That includes decorations, curtains, books and papers, etc.
-  Always trim wicks to 1/4 inch before burning.
-  When jar candles reach within one inch of the bottom, throw them out! The glass can shatter from the heat and hot wax.
-  Do not allow children to “help” to light candles.

Why Children Set Fires

Most children have a fascination with fire. For some, that fascination leads them to “play” with it to find out how it feels, how it burns and what it does. They do not understand fire’s destructive potential.

Although curiosity is a normal part of a child’s growth and development, parents and other adults who discover that a child is playing with fire should take it very seriously.

Children as young as 18 months, “playing” with lighters and/or matches, have been known to set fires with serious injuries or deadly consequences. Although you may have hidden matches and lighters, children can find them.



What You Can Do

- Teach your child about fire.
- Fire is a tool we use to heat our homes or cook our food.
- Matches and lighters are not toys.
- All fires—even small ones—can spread quickly.
- Even adults must follow special safety rules for fire.
- Teach children to bring to your attention any matches or lighters they find.
- Teach children “what’s hot—what’s not”.
- Give children a “NO Zone” of 36 inches around any flame or hot object.



Parents—read the following story to your child/children, and let them fill in the blanks as you read.

Once upon a time it was Courtney’s birthday. Her mommy made her a yummy birthday _____. On the cake were _____ candles. Courtney’s daddy lit the candles with a _____. Courtney blew out the _____. Everybody cheered! Courtney’s mommy and daddy wanted her to be safe, so they said, “Remember, if you find matches or a cigarette lighter, don’t touch, and always tell a grown-up like _____ or _____”.

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

The Burn Prevention Foundation has a program to help families with children who play with fire. An assessment determines the intervention that will best help the child. The program provides counseling when necessary and/or education, and is sponsored through grants and community partnerships. This program is strictly confidential and is offered free to families. For more information, contact the Burn Prevention Foundation.