



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

27 April 2020

Contact: Marsha McCurdy Adell
Fire Inspector
West Hartford Fire Marshal's Office
860.561.8316
MAzell@WestHartfordCT.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Fire Marshal's Office is committed to fire prevention and community safety. Reaching out to the people we serve is important because the information we offer may result in a fire being prevented.

We know this is a time when candles are being lit to honor front line workers, memorialize loved ones, celebrate holidays, and to create a relaxing environment at home during this pandemic. We also know that with the increase of candle lighting, reminding everyone of precautions to take will keep us safer by preventing a potential fire. Here are a few tips to remember when lighting a candle:

- Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. It should be heat resistant, sturdy, and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax.
- Never leave a candle unattended.
- Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire. Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.
- Never touch or move a candle while it is burning or while the wax is liquefied.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down. To be safe, stop burning a candle when 1/2 inch remains in the container or 2 inches if using a pillar candle.
- Place burning candles at least three inches apart from one another. This is to make sure they don't melt one another or create their own drafts that will cause the candles to burn improperly.
- Extinguish a candle if the flame becomes too high or flickers repeatedly. Let the candle cool, trim the wick, and check for unwanted drafts before re-lighting.
- Never use a candle as a night light or while you may fall asleep.
- Be very careful if using candles during a power outage. Flashlights and other battery-powered lights are safer sources of light during a power failure. Never use a candle during a power outage to look for things in a closet, or when fueling equipment – such as a lantern or kerosene heater.

These may be simple measures to take, but we want everyone to enjoy the use of candles and have peace of mind knowing these safety tips.

Thank you for joining us in our mission of fire prevention which keeps our community safe.

WEST HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 204
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107-2538
(860)561-8320 FAX: (860)561-7551