

# 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 diameter 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.*



## **FireFACTORS**

**Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

P.O. Box 1025 State Road • Stow, Massachusetts 01775 • (978) 567-3380  
Public Education Hotline • 1-877-9 NOFIRE

- **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.*