



## Tips about Candle Safety

---

Candles have been used throughout this country's history and they are still a big part of our culture, either in commercial spaces or our homes. The Lake Zurich Fire/Rescue Department would like to remind everyone of the danger of candles and how to make their use safer for you and your family.

During the last few years, over 15,000 structure fires were started by candles. These fires resulted in 150 deaths, 1270 injuries and an estimated property loss of 539 million dollars. About 38% of these fires started in the bedroom and accounted for 41% of the associated deaths. Here are some safety tips on using candles:

1. Keep candles at least 12 inches from all combustible materials like paper, cardboard, clothing, curtains, lamp shades etc.
2. Use candles that are hard to tip like jar candles
3. NEVER leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish it when you leave the room or house
4. Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing a candle
5. Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping rooms
6. Always use a flashlight for emergency lighting, not a candle
7. Use battery operated flameless candles
8. Do not allow your children to use candles

December is the peak time for home candle fires. Be extra cautious, especially with holiday decorations around the house. Candles can provide a warm, inviting atmosphere to our homes, but we can never let our guard down around them.