

THE SAFETY LEADER

Prevention is the Key

Unattended Candles

According to the National Candle Association, 7 out of 10 households use candles. Since 1995 every year has seen a record high in house fires attributed to lit candles within the home. In 2001, in-home candle fires were responsible for 190 DEATHS, 1461 INJURIES, and \$265 MILLION in property damage.

The National Fire Prevention Association offers these tips for safe candle use:

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from things that can catch fire, such as clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, decorations, or cats.
- Place candles on stable furniture in sturdy holders that won't tip over and that are big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles in windows where they may ignite blinds or curtains.
- Place candles only in areas where they won't be knocked over by children or pets.
- Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Extinguish votive and filled candles before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible materials embedded in them, or with holders or decorations that could ignite.
- Do not allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.

NEVER leave a lit candle unattended, especially with children and pets in the house.

