

3

COOKING & KITCHEN SAFETY

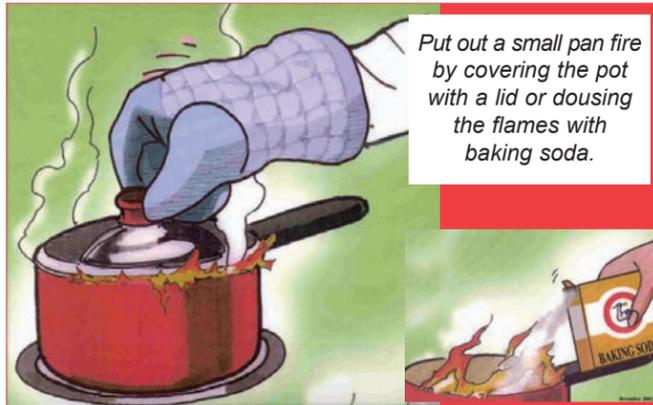
The holidays are a time for celebration and that means more cooking. Regrettably, cooking fires remain the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries. **Unattended cooking accounts for 33% of these fires.** Other leading causes are placing combustible items too close to the heat source and various electrical defects.

There are a variety of situations that lead to unattended cooking fires. The most common is when the cook becomes distracted and leaves the kitchen. The most common distractions are attending to children, answering phone calls, watching television and answering doorbells.

In order to drastically reduce your risk of a cooking fire, follow this recipe for safety.

TIPS WHILE COOKING:

- stay in the kitchen, don't leave cooking food unattended. (stand by your pan!)
 - wear short or tight fitting sleeves. (long loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles)
 - don't become distracted.
 - enforce a "kid-free zone" of 3-feet around your stove.
 - keep the area around the stove clear of towels, papers, pot holders or anything that could burn.
 - cook at indicated temperatures settings rather than higher settings.
 - regularly clean your cooking equipment so that there are no cooking materials, food items or grease accumulation.
 - have a pot lid handy to smother a pan fire. Do not attempt to pick up the pot or pan. Shut off the heat and cover the fire with a lid.
 - DO NOT USE WATER! It will cause splashing and spread the fire.
 - treat burns immediately with cool running water.
- Also food items such as cookies and candy that could attract children should not be stored above the cooking range.



Put out a small pan fire by covering the pot with a lid or dousing the flames with baking soda.

4

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING & SMOKING MATERIALS

More people die in fires started by carelessly discarded or abandoned smoking materials such as cigarette butts, cigarette ashes, matches, lighters and ashtrays, than any other type of fire. The most common materials to first ignite are mattresses and bedding, followed by trash and upholstered furniture.



Fires caused by smoking materials often smolder, sometimes for hours before the first flame.

When you are planning your holiday entertaining, also plan to take precautions to prevent a fire in your home.

- ✓ Provide plenty of large deep ashtrays and check them frequently.
- ✓ After entertaining in your home, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trashcans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- ✓ Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- ✓ Keep matches and lighters up high and out of sight and reach of children.
- ✓ When smokers visit your home ask them to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- ✓ Don't smoke in bed or lying down, especially if you are drowsy, medicated or have been drinking alcohol.
- ✓ Consider additional smoke alarms in your home, specifically a photoelectric type, which is the most reliable for smoldering type fires.



Scene of 5-alarm Brooklyn fire started by careless smoking in Winter 2004

Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home. If you are a smoker, take extra precautions to ensure the safety of you and your family.

WINTER



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Nicholas Scoppetta, Fire Commissioner



FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Holiday Hazards

The holiday season brings about many changes in your home. The heating system kicks on and you prepare for the holidays by decorating and cooking holiday feasts. The winter and the holiday season are also fire season. More than 33% of home fires happen during the months of December, January and February. Most fires and injuries are preventable by taking precautions that can make the difference between a happy and safe holiday or a holiday tragedy.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- 1 CANDLE SAFETY**
- 2 CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY**
- 3 COOKING SAFETY**
- 4 HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING & SMOKING MATERIALS**



NEW YORK CITY TOP CAUSES OF FIRE FATALITIES 2005

SMOKING: 23 persons

ELECTRICAL: 18 persons
Including faulty outlets, overloaded outlets, extension cords.

OPEN FLAMES: 28 persons
Including children playing with matches or lighters, cooking fires, etc.

Source: FDNY Bureau of Fire Investigations

Be especially careful during the winter months! Many home activities such as cooking, holiday decorations, electric space heaters, and the use of burning candles can result in a fire in your home.

Issued by FDNY

Office of Fire Safety Education & Office of Public Information

For more Fire Safety info visit the
**FDNY Website www.nyc.gov/fdny
or www.fdnfirezone.org**

You can also write to the
NYC Fire Department Office of Fire Safety Education



FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK
9 METROTECH CENTER
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201-3857

1

CANDLE SAFETY IN THE HOME

BURNING CANDLES ARE A LEADING CAUSE OF FIRE



Candles are a traditional part of holiday decorating and rituals. However, statistics indicate that home candle fires peak annually on Christmas Day, New Years Day and Christmas Eve.

How does a little flame become so dangerous?

More than 33% of candle fires occurred when the candles were left unattended or abandoned. Roughly 25% of the fires occurred because something combustible such as curtains or paper was too close to the flame. Half the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20, with most of the victims between the ages of 5 and 9.

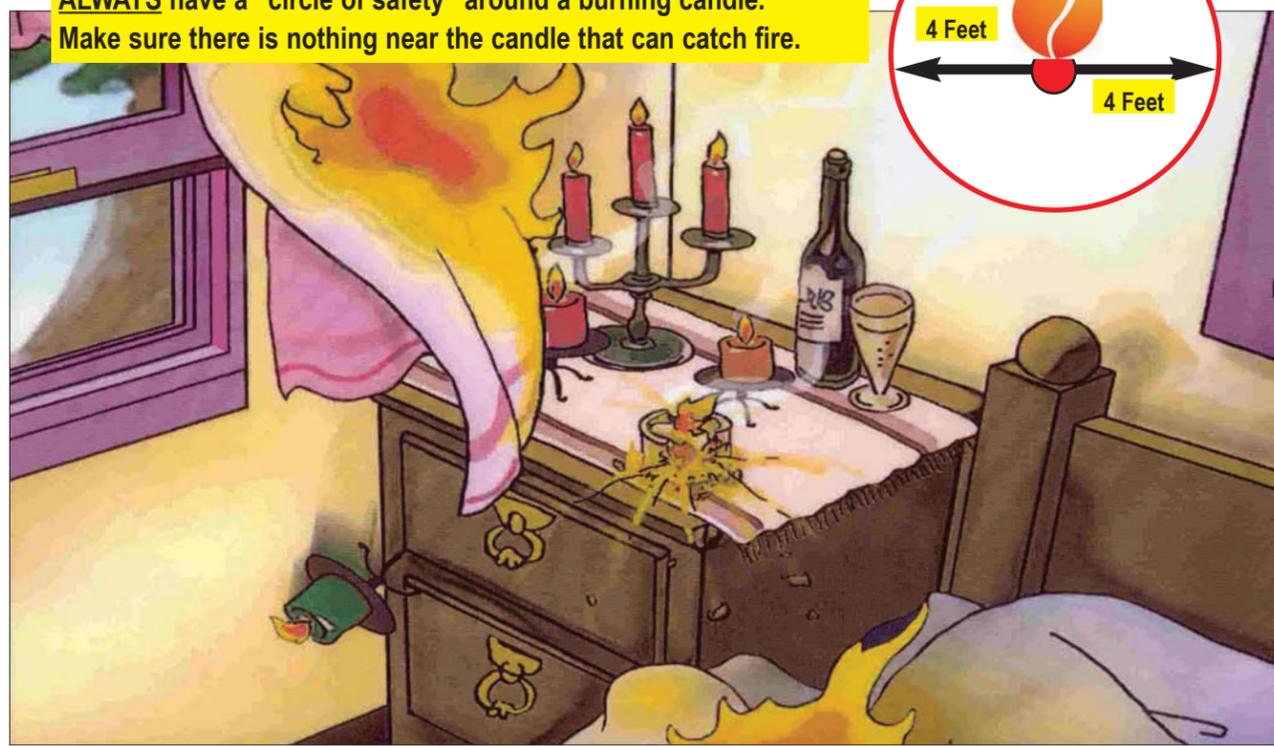
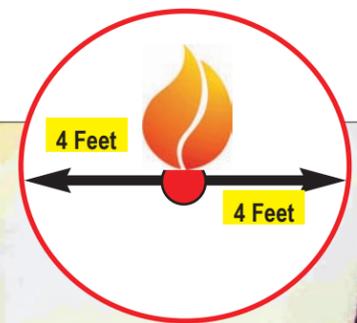
If you burn candles for decorative or ritual purposes, make your home and holiday safer by:

- using candles with flame protective non-combustible shades or globes.
- using a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candle holder.
- avoiding the use of candles with embedded combustible decorative items.
- placing candles at least 4 feet away from curtains, draperies, decorations, blinds and bedding.
- placing candles out of reach of small children and pets.
- refraining from using decorative/floral candle rings.
- extinguishing candles before leaving the room.
- extinguishing candles when they burn within two inches of the holder.
- never leaving burning candles unattended.

Candles should always be placed out of reach of children and don't allow teens to have candles in their bedrooms. In case of an emergency, do not use candles to light your home. Be prepared by having flashlights and batteries available in your home. Have the flashlights accessible in the kitchen and bedroom. You should also carry a flashlight in your car and a small light on your person.

"CIRCLE OF SAFETY"

ALWAYS have a "circle of safety" around a burning candle. Make sure there is nothing near the candle that can catch fire.



2

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Christmas trees are enjoyed in many homes as the traditional centerpiece of the Holiday celebration. However, both real and artificial trees pose an increased risk of fire. Christmas tree fires do happen. Defective lighting, including electrical cords and plugs, cause almost half of all Christmas tree fires.



Enjoy a safe holiday season by protecting your family and your neighbors with the following fire prevention tips:

When choosing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant. When choosing a real tree, select the freshest-looking tree available. Select a tree that is an appropriate size for the room. Keep in mind that trees look smaller when they are outside, and tree toppers and stands will add to the final height of the tree.

PREVENTING FIRES REAL TREES

- Test for freshness by gently grasping a branch between your thumb and forefinger and pulling it towards you. Very few needles should come off.
- Shake or bounce the tree on its stump. If an excessive amount of green needles fall to the ground, the tree may not be fresh.
- Buy your tree early. Most tree lots receive only one shipment of trees. Trees don't become fresher sitting in a lot.
- If you don't plan on putting the tree up right away, make a one half inch fresh cut off the bottom of the trunk and place the tree in a 5 gallon bucket of warm water. Store the tree in cool temperatures, but above freezing.
- If the tree has been stored for more than three days prior to putting it up, make another one inch cut off the bottom of the trunk and immediately place the tree into a stand that holds at least a half-gallon of water.
- Keep the water level above the cut and check the water level daily. (Initially, a fresh tree may soak up a gallon of water per day.)
- No water additives such as aspirin, sugar, or commercial fire retardant are necessary. Plain tap water is best!

PLACEMENT AND DECORATING OF CHRISTMAS TREES

- Place the tree away (at least 3 ft) from heating system air registers, fireplaces and other heat sources.
- Try to position the tree near an electrical outlet to minimize use of extension cords.
- Adequately support the tree with a sturdy stand designed not to tip over.
- Do not place the tree where it may obstruct or block access to exits.
- Carefully inspect new and used lights for cracks or frayed wires. Do not use lights with broken bulbs.
- Only use tree lights that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark.
- Do not use electric lights on metallic trees (use remote spot or reflective lights).
- Do not place electrical cords under rugs or in paths of travel.
- Do not use lighted candles or other flaming devices on or near your tree.
- Whenever possible, use decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Unplug the tree lights when out of the room and before going to sleep.

Even if you keep your tree properly watered, it will naturally start to dry out.

Discard the tree immediately after the holiday.



Did you remember to change your SMOKE ALARM BATTERY when you changed your clock for Daylight Saving Time? **IF NOT, DO SO NOW!**

And did you know that effective November 2004, all homes and apartments must have a Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detector.