



OREGON

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December 18, 2007

For Immediate Release

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Holiday candle safety reminder: *Before you go out, Blow it out!*

State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr reminds Oregonians candle-caused fires are preventable. Earlier this month, an unattended candle caused a fire at a home in Hubbard resulting in \$300,000 in damage.

“Always keep an eye on your burning candles,” advises Orr. “A lighted candle in your home is an open flame and can quickly get out of control.”

In the five year period from 2002 to 2006 there were 738 candle-related fires in Oregon resulting in 13 civilian deaths, 74 civilian injuries, 16 firefighter injuries and estimated property losses of more than \$16 million.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal offers the following tips on candle safety:

- **Blow out all candles before leaving the room or before going to sleep.**
- **Keep candles away from things that burn.** Keep candles at least one foot away from combustibles including clothing, curtains, upholstered furniture, greenery, and decorations.
- **Always use a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candleholder.** Make sure the candleholder is big enough to catch dripping wax.
- **Place candles out of reach of small children and pets.**
- **Keep candles out of high traffic areas.**
- **Trim wicks to one-quarter inch before lighting.**
- **Avoid candles with items embedded in them such as twigs, flowers or leaves.** These items can ignite or even explode.
- **Maintain working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom.**

More information on Oregon candle fire statistics is available at
http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Home_Fire_Safety_Campaign.shtml.

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