Candle Fire Safety

With the holidays fast approaching and the increased usage of seasonal decorations, it is important to focus on candle fire safety and prevention. Each year, candles cause an estimated 17,400 home structure fires, resulting in 180 deaths and 1,575 injuries. Because the majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence, candle fires and their associated casualties are preventable.

- If possible, avoid using lighted candles.

- If you must use candles, ensure that they are placed in sturdy holders.

- Keep candles away from children and pets.

- Be sure to extinguish candles after each use.

- Never leave burning candles unattended.

By following a few candle safety tips, everyone can enjoy a safer and happier holiday season.

Data source: 2001-2005 NFPA 5-year average of candle fire estimates.

FEMA

U.S. Fire Administration

For information and resources on this subject visit **www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus**