



The Central County Fire Department

Serving the Cities of Burlingame and Millbrae and the Town of Hillsborough

*This Valentine's Day, whether you are planning to light a candle for your sweetheart or just dimming the room – **Practice these fire safety tips before things heat up!***

Household Candle Safety

Did you know that the fire departments in the United States respond to thousands of home structure fires that are started by candles each year? These fires cause death, injury and millions of dollars in property damage. We know things heat up on Valentine's Day, but follow these tips to make sure a fire hazard isn't in the works:



- **Battery-Operated Candles:** Battery-operated candles can create the perfect dim lighting, without the hazard of a flame. There are models that are made to look, smell and feel like real candles – without the burning wax!
- **Candle Holders:** If you are using real candles, make sure they are in sturdy, designated candle holders made of metal, glass or ceramic.
- **Candle Placement:** Keep candles away from combustible materials and 12 inches away from anything that could burn if the candle tipped over. Place the candles in an area where they cannot be easily knocked down or accessed by children or pets. Avoid using candles in the bedroom and carpeted areas.
- **Candles:** Make certain that you always blow out candles when you leave a room or go to sleep. Unattended candles have started many fires.
- **Smoke Alarms:** Make sure your home is protected by working smoke alarms. Half of all home fire deaths happen at night, when people are sleeping. Test them once a month and replace them every 10 years.
- **Heating:** Try to keep everything that can burn at least 3 feet away from any heating equipment. Clothes, blankets, newspapers and furniture can start a fire if they are too close to a heater, furnace, fireplace, etc.
- **Cooking:** Cooking is the main cause of home fires and home injuries. Make safety your first ingredient; stay in the kitchen when you are cooking at high temperatures. Fires start when the heat gets too high. If you see smoke or grease starts to boil, turn the burner off. If there are flames, put a lid on it.

National Burn Awareness Week Feb 7-13, 2021



Thousands of individuals are seen in emergency departments, minor emergency clinics or physician's offices for the treatment of a burn injury in the United States. In 2014 alone, there were 3,275 recorded deaths from fire and smoke inhalation injuries. The majority of these injuries were preventable. This is why the American Burn Association and its Burn Prevention Committee wants to bring awareness to the cause of devastating and costly injuries and encourage the public to make simple environmental and behavioral changes that has proven to mitigate this problem.

Special Tips

- Children are at higher risk for burn injuries due to their immature motor and cognitive skills and dependence on adults for supervision and safety: <http://ameriburn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/safety-in-the-home-children.pdf>
- Homes with older adults: <http://ameriburn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/safety-in-the-home-2.pdf>