



VALLEY CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Administrative Office & Fire Prevention Bureau
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Valley Center, CA 92082
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HOLIDAY CANDLE SAFETY

With the Holidays just around the corner, candles are a popular way to celebrate and decorate in our homes.

Candles are also the cause of many residential structure fires.

The Valley Center Fire Protection District in cooperation with CALFIRE reminds everyone that there is no substitute for fire prevention and education before a fire occurs.

Candles are generally safe products, but may become hazardous when used improperly or in an unsafe manner. National fire safety agencies report that the bulk of candle fire incidents in the United States are due to consumer inattention to basic fire safety or to the misuse of candles.

The Valley Center Fire Protection District recommends the following safety tips when burning candles:

Candle Preparation

- Read and carefully follow all manufacturer instructions.
- Trim candlewicks to 1/4 inch each time before burning. Long or crooked wicks cause uneven burning and dripping.
- Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax. Be sure the candleholder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.

General Safety

- Always keep a burning candle within your sight. Extinguish all candles when you leave a room or before going to sleep.
- Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire. Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and air currents. This will help prevent rapid, uneven burning, smoking and excessive dripping. Drafts can also blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame where they could catch fire. Ceiling fans can cause drafts.
- Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times.
- Do not burn a candle for longer than the manufacturer recommends.
- Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.

Fire Station #72
28234 Lilac Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

Fire Station #73
28205 N. Lake Wohlford Road
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- Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container. For a margin of safety, discontinue burning a candle when 2 inches of wax remain (1/2 inch if in a container). This will also help prevent possible heat damage to the counter/surface and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking.
- Never touch or move a votive or container candle when the wax is liquid.
- Extinguish pillar candles if the wax pool approaches the outer edge.
- Candles should be placed at least three inches apart from one another. This is to be sure that they don't melt one another, or create their own drafts that will cause the candles to burn improperly.
- One of the safest ways to extinguish a candle is to use a candle snuffer, which helps prevent hot wax from spattering.

Please call the Valley Center Fire Prevention District for additional information about fire prevention.

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