



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

State Fire Marshal

560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886
Telephone: (401) 889-5555 — Fax: (401) 889-5533

Colonel Ann C. Assumpico
Director, Department of Public Safety
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police

James B. Gumbley, CFI
Acting State Fire Marshal
Division of the State Fire Marshal

CANDLES USED AS EMERGENCY LIGHTING

With the loss of electricity in many communities in Rhode Island citizens have turned to the use of candles as emergency lighting. **Unfortunately, this practice has already resulted in multiple house fires in our state.** Flashlights and other lights generated by batteries are much safer light sources than candles. Keep working flashlights on hand. Candles used as emergency lighting is not recommended, but if as a last resort you chose to use them, please consider the following information.

- Nearly two-fifths of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle, such as; furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations..
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Think of using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candles holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and away from open windows.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down – put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.

POWER OUTAGES ARE SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- Avoid carrying a lit candle. When you carry a candle, you are carrying something that could start a fire. If you need to look for something in a closet or confined area, use a flashlight or wait.
- Never use a candle for light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the home or when going to sleep.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches, lighters and other heat sources high and out of children's reach.
- Keep pets away from lit candles