



For Immediate Release

“Candle Fire Could Have Been Disastrous”

North Bay, June 18, 2010 - A local family is very fortunate that they obeyed an important safety rule regarding candles...“Never leave a burning candle left unattended.” A large pillar candle decorated with and containing coffee beans was lit. The coffee beans then ignited and the wax collapsed pouring over the glass candle holder and onto the counter. Unfortunately candles are challenging to regulate commercially as well as homemade candles sold at local craft fairs. We can not forget that a burning candle is an open flame which left unattended could be disastrous especially if the candle contains decorative materials which can easily ignite. While many causes of home fires have decreased, the percentage of fires caused by candles continuous to be a growing concern.

Please act responsibly when burning candles and prevent such a disaster from occurring in your home. Remember these safety tips from North Bay Fire & Emergency Services.

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep out of the reach of children and pets (an 18 month old toddler is capable of using a lighter).
- Place the candle container on a safe heat resistant surface. Burn candles inside a 1-foot circle of safety, free of anything that can burn.
- Purchase good quality candles that are smoke-free and drip-free.
- Do not burn any candle below ½ inch from the bottom of the jar/container.
- Trim the wick before relighting to 1/4 inch or less, removing excess wick and matches from the container.
- Do not burn a candle near drafts such as vents or open windows.
- Secure candles in sturdy holders and do not assume your candle holder is safe. Many holders (especially glass) can break or catch fire.

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Candle Fire – Use Caution When Purchasing and Burning Candles



Figure 1 - This photo shows the remains of a candle on a glass candle holder. The candle contained coffee beans on both the inside and the outside of the candle. The photo shows how the coffee beans ignited and the wax poured onto the kitchen counter.

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Figure 2 - Burnt coffee beans contained in the candle and the wax drippings. This situation could have been disastrous. Luckily the candle was not left burning unattended.