



## Candle Safety

November 2015

### Publicity Line

There are around 1,000 fires in the home each year accidentally started by candles or tea lights many of which result death or serious injury.

NFCC is committed to creating safer, healthier and more resilient communities and in support of this it is considered that raising awareness of the fire and safety risks associated with the use of candles and tea lights will contribute significantly to reducing fire casualties and fatalities and also materially reduce fire losses arising from accidental fires in the home.

It is also important that public fire safety information and advice is continually updated to reflect new or emerging risks arising from products being supplied and retailed in the UK.

In addition to the use of candles to provide temporary or ambient lighting, as the use of scented candles or tea lights in the home has become fashionable, manufacture, import and sales of such products have increased and so have the associated risks. Improper or unsafe use of candles can be dangerous at any time of year but the risk is highest in Autumn and Winter, particularly during Halloween and the festive period.

NFCC and Fire and Rescue Services do not recommend the burning of candles in the home, especially where young children are around or pets could knock candles over and particularly in the case of older, frail or vulnerable persons/householders who may be at high risk of accident and injury

England ✓	Wales ✓	Scotland ✓	Northern Ireland ✓
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### Advice to the public:

- There are much safer means of providing light in a power failure, scenting rooms in the home and/or providing ambient lighting that does not involve the additional risk and hazard posed by burning candles or tea lights.

- ] Always keep a suitable torch and spare batteries available to use in the event of mains electrical power failure
- Consider the use of dimmer switches or low wattage table lamps instead of lit candles to reduce levels of luminance in the home.
- Consider safer ways of scenting rooms that do not involve the use of naked flames from candles or tea lights
- Build-up of combustion products can cause harm, particularly in poorly ventilated rooms and/or in the case of persons with known respiratory problems