

Candle Safety

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, thirteen percent (13%) of home candle fires begin with decorations compared to four percent (4%) the rest of the year. On average, 42 home candle fires are reported every day. More than half of these fires start when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations is too close to candles. Twenty percent (20%) of candle fires start due to unattended or abandoned candles. Falling asleep is a factor in twelve percent (12%) of home candle fires and thirty six percent (36%) of the associated deaths.



The Moreno Valley Fire Department offers the following candle safety tips:

- Put candles in sturdy metal, glass or ceramic holders.
- **Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles** and fragrance warmers, which can look, smell and feel like real candles – without the flame.
- If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Extinguish candles after use and before going to bed.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters and fire carefully.
- Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters or candles.
- Never use a candle where medical oxygen is being used. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire.
- Always use a flashlight – not a candle – for emergency lighting.
- Never put candles on a Christmas tree.
- When using in home worship, don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them, or pass handheld candles from one person to another. To lower the risk of fire, candles should be used by only a few designated adults.
- And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!



For more information on candle safety tips, please visit:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/candle.shtm

The Moreno Valley Fire Department would like to remind you the importance of replacing the batteries on smoke detectors.

- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm."
- Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms. Children and older people can sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Make sure your escape plan includes someone that can help children and others wake up immediately to escape from the home.
- If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of each bedroom.
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
- Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items like games or remote controls.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.
- If there is a fire, leave the home right away by crawling low under the smoke and never go back inside.
- If smoke from cooking makes the alarm sound, press the "hush" button, if your alarm has one. You can also turn on the kitchen fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm until it stops making the sound. Never take the battery out of the alarm.
- Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years. If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and a new battery.
- If you rent, talk to your landlord about placing a working smoke alarm in your home. You still need to buy a new battery at least once a year for the alarm.



The Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management would like to offer important flood preparedness information.

As the cold and rainy season approaches, the Office of Emergency Management would like to inform everyone that floods are one of the most common hazards in Riverside County. Floods can cause injury, death, property damage and even contaminate drinking water and cause electrical disruptions which can severely impact a city. All floods are not alike and can develop slowly over time but can also progress very quickly in just a few minutes. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of rapidly moving water that carries rocks, mud, debris and can sweep away anything in its path. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially in low lying areas, near water or even near flood prone areas or intersections. Do not attempt to cross an area or intersection that appears to be flooded but rather find an alternate route of travel.

Before the Flood Warning or Watch

Be prepared to respond to flooding by taking the following actions before the rains and flooding begin:

- Assemble emergency supply kits for your home, workplace, and vehicle.
- Store a seven-day supply of food and water (at least one gallon per person, per day) in closed, clean containers.
- Sandbags
- Plastic sheeting
- Teach children not to play in or near rivers, streams, or other areas of potential flooding.
- Identify safe routes from your home or work place to high, safe ground. Determine whether you can use these routes during flooding or storms. Be familiar with your geographic surroundings.



During the Flood

- Avoid unnecessary trips.
- Do not drive or walk through moving water. You can be knocked off your feet in as little as 6 inches of water.
- Do not “sightsee” or enter restricted areas.
- Stay away from streams, rivers, flood control channels and other areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Move to higher ground if you’re caught by rising waters.
- Use the phone only to report dangerous conditions or emergencies that are life threatening.
- Be prepared to evacuate if notified by emergency responders.

