



Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

Captain Deion Glover  
Government and Media Relations

## State Fire Marshal's Office State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

**Date:** January 11, 2024

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### Candle Hazards and Safety

**Olympia**— Candles are pretty to look at and provide lighting, but they are a cause of many residential fires and fire deaths. Lit candles are also used in religious services, both in places of worship and at home, and should be handled with care. The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind everyone that a candle is considered an open flame and can easily ignite anything that can burn.

Nationally, an average of 20 home candle fires are reported each day. In 2022, Washington State reported 2,010 fire incidents caused by open flames that resulted in over \$21 million in damage.

The SFMO would like to remind everyone about candle safety –

- Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- When using candles, ensure that they are placed in a sturdy candle holder. If handheld, candles should not be passed from one person to another.
- Lit candles should not be placed in windows where a blind or curtain could catch fire.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from items that can burn.
- Never use a candle if medical oxygen is used in a home.
- Don't leave children alone in a room with a burning candle and keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach.
- When used for religious services, burning candles on or near tables, alters, or shrines, must be watched by an adult. If a candle must burn continuously for any services, ensure that it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down – put it out before it gets too close to the holder or candle container.
- Consider using battery powered flameless candles that simulate the real candle feel.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at [www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office) or at (360) 596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

[www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)