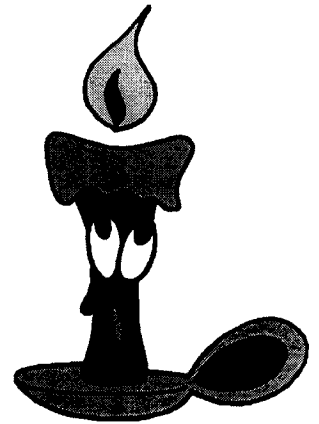# Put it Out, Before You go Out!
Prevent candle fires.

Candle use has risen greatly in the past decade, but unfortunately so have candle fires. A few simple actions can prevent a candle fire from occurring.

- **Stay in the same room with burning candles; never leave them burning unattended.** Most candle fires start when they are left burning unattended. Always make sure candles are blown out before leaving home or going to bed.

- **Keep candles away from things that can burn.** Keep candles at least **one foot** away from clothing, curtains, upholstered furniture, greenery, decorations and any other flammable items. Always use a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candleholder.

- **Place candles out of reach of children and pets.** Many candle fires are started when children touch or play with them, or when pets knock them over.

- **Keep wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch.** This keeps the candle from smoking.

- **Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them such as twigs, flowers or leaves.** These items can ignite and even explode, causing a fire.

- **Avoid using candles during power outages.** Have a flashlight ready for that purpose.

- **If you have Oxygen in use in your home you should never burn candles.** This will cause the fire to spread at a high rate.

  Remember to make sure you have **working smoke alarms** on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom. Consider a home fire sprinkler system for increased protection.