



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
HWFRS
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

TREAT CANDLES WITH CARE THIS WINTER!



With darker nights and winter celebrations approaching, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has issued timely advice to anyone who is about to buy, sell or use candles.

“Statistics show that there have been a number of fire calls, found to have been caused by the incorrect use of candles” said, Station Manager Richard Jordan of Worcester Fire Station. “These range from candles being placed near to flammable items such as curtains, through to poor choice / lack of holders. [It’s worth noting that commercial premises have a specific duty of care to ensure the safety of their employees and customers –**and failure to do so, could result in prosecution and/or damage to reputation of the business and its managers!**]”

Highlighting important safety points to be remembered Richard Jordan said, “Candles are a naked flame and as such need to be treated with care.”

Always: -

- Keep them away from draughts and anything that can easily catch fire like furniture, curtains or tableware.
- Always use a glass or metal holder designed for the size of candle you are using. This is particularly important when using scented candles which turn into liquid to release their fragrance!
- Always place candles on a heat resistant surface –Night lights and tea lights can melt plastic surfaces such as TV tops and plastic baths.
- Never lean across burning candles –you could set fire to your hair or clothes.
- Always leave at least 4” (10cm) between two burning candles.
- Mind the gap! Don’t put candles under shelves or other surfaces.
- Don’t let anything fall into the hot wax, like matchsticks.
- When using larger candles, use a ‘snuffer’ or spoon to put candles out. It’s safer than blowing them which can send sparks and hot wax flying.
- Always put candles out before you move them.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.

Concluding Richard Jordan said: “Candles are popular, but by following these simple rules and making sure that you have working smoke alarms in your home, accidents, fires and tragedies can be avoided.”

For more information about fire safety, visit www.firekills.gov.uk