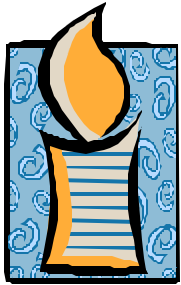


Candle Safety

In November 2006, Church Mutual Insurance Company reported:



Each year about 16 worship centers insured by Church Mutual experience serious fires that cause damage ranging from a few thousand dollars to destruction costing millions of dollars – all as a result of misuse of candles. The average damage from a candle-related fire at a house of worship is \$96,000. The majority of candle fires start in an unoccupied room and are not detected until the fire has spread.

Their report goes on to say:

- *Candles left burning unattended cause 63% of candle fires*
- *Candles burning too close to flammable materials cause 20% of candle fires*
- *45% of the candle fires occur during holidays or special events*

Safety tips can be found at the National Fire Protection Association's website at: www.nfpa.org. Type "candle safety" in the search box.

Please take extra care in your congregation.