

## **PUMPKIN SPICE IS IN THE AIR**

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**Mention fall and most people immediately think of scents such as pumpkin spice, and burning their candles at night. However, we also need to think of safety; when burning candles in the home. I was cooking supper the other night and accidentally turned on the wrong burner on my stove. Before I knew it a candle had exploded on my stove and molten wax was all over my kitchen. I was lucky; there was no fire and I was left with just a mess to clean up. Others are not so lucky. According to the National Fire Protection Association, from 2012 – 2016, approximately 8,200 house fires were started by a candle per year. Annually, these fires resulted in 80 deaths, 770 injuries and \$264 million in damages. On average 23 home candle fires are reported each day. The top 3 days for candle fires are New Year's Day, Christmas and New Year's Eve.**

- 1. Consider using flameless candles in the home. They look and smell like real candles.**
- 2. Keep candles at least 1 foot from anything that can burn. Do not place candles near curtains, or other fabrics, including furniture.**
- 3. Make sure a candles are at least 3 feet away from any surface above it.**
- 4. Blow out candles before you leave a room or go to bed. A candle should never be burned in a bedroom or bathroom.**
- 5. Place candles on heat resistant surfaces.**
- 6. Use candle holders that are sturdy and will not fall over.**
- 7. Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.**
- 8. Do not move a candle when it is burning; or burn it in a drafty area.**
- 9. Have flashlights ready to use for power outages; do not use candles.**
- 10. Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.**

**Let's keep the preceding tips in mind to ensure the smell of pumpkin spice can safely waft through your home.**