

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Candle Fire Danger

Friday 12 September 2008
3.15 pm

The SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) wishes to remind South Australian's of the potential danger posed by candles.

In recent weeks three house fires have been caused by candles. These incidents have prompted a warning about the use of candles, especially when children are part of the household.

MFS Community Safety District Officer, Allan Foster says, "A candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite any combustibles nearby.

"Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books, paper and curtains. Use only sturdy candles holders which are non-combustible and will not tip over and ensure that all candles are extinguished before leaving a room or going to sleep."

Lit candles should never be placed in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them, or where they can be knocked over by children or pets.

Children and candles can be a deadly mix, explains District Officer Foster, "We would prefer that candles are not used if there are children in the house but if you do, keep candles up high, out of reach of children and never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle."

The MFS also recommends that parents store all matches and lighters in a locked cabinet out of the reach of children.

Flammable liquids should also be kept away from candles and all open flames.

The MFS runs a free, confidential program for children who have been involved in fire play called the Juvenile Firelighters Intervention Program (JFLIP).

Parents are advised to contact the MFS on 8204 3611 if they have a child who has been playing with fire.