

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



GENERAL ORDER

610.13



Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Appendix
Fire Marshal	1/5/2009		

SUBJECT: Candles and Open Flame Devices

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel/General Public

Policy:

Unless open flame devices or candles meet the following regulations, a person shall not use or allow to be used, open flames or burning candles in connection with any public meeting or gathering for the purpose of deliberation, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, display, or similar purpose in any occupancy open to the public, including assembly, business, educational, and or mercantile occupancies. Candles or open flame devices not meeting the below stated requirements may be used in connection with a worship service in any place of worship if it is used in such a manner as not to create a hazardous condition, emergency, or imminent danger.

1. Candle or Decorative Device

1.1. For the candle or device to be approved by the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Service (DFRS) Fire Marshal’s Section , the candle, disposable or refillable cartridge, open flame decorative device must meet 1.1.1 thru 1.1.9 , NFPA 1, Sections 10.1.5 and Title 17, Section 104 (Fire Prevention Code) Subsection 10.1.5.1.

1.1.1. Candles, disposable or refillable fuel cartridges, or other open-flame decorative lighting shall not use Class I, II, or IIIA liquids or liquefied petroleum gases.

1.1.1.1. Examples Class I; gasoline, alcohol, turpentine

1.1.1.2. Examples Class II; diesel fuel, kerosene

1.1.1.3. Examples Class IIIA; mineral oil, linseed oil, oil based paints

1.1.2. Except candles, liquid or solid fueled lighting devices shall have a self-extinguishing captive-free floating snuffing device and shall not leak fuel at a rate of more than 1/4 teaspoon per minute if tipped over.

1.1.3. Devices or holders shall be constructed to prevent the spilling of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 1/4 teaspoon per minute when the device or holder is not in an upright position.

1.1.4. Except for units that self-extinguish and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 1/4 teaspoon per minute if tipped over, devices or holders shall be designed to return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees.

1.1.5. Except where openings on the sides are not more than 3/4 of an inch in diameter, flames of candles, disposable or refillable fuel cartridges, or other open-flame

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decorative lighting shall be enclosed. The opening on the top and the distance to the top shall be such that a single layer of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds and the fuel container shall have no means of adjusting the height of the flame.

- 1.1.6. Except where an open flame device self-extinguishes if the device is tipped over, chimneys shall be made of non-combustible material and shall be securely attached to the open-flame device.
- 1.1.7. Disposable or refillable liquid fuel cartridges shall not be under pressure and shall be safely sealed for storage. The fuel container shall be sealed so that it cannot be refilled on the premises and so that the burner assembly cannot be removed from the fuel container.
- 1.1.8. Chimney shades, if used, shall be made of non-combustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
- 1.1.9. The base, device, or holder and any decoration around or near the base must be noncombustible. Devices must be located so as to avoid ignition of any combustibles.

2. Food Warming Operations

2.1. Food warming operations must meet 2.2 thru 2.10 and NFPA 1 Section 20.1.4.2.

- 2.1.1. It is recommended that only electric devices be utilized.
- 2.1.2. Chafing dishes using an open flame must be designed for this type of use.
- 2.1.3. Chafing dish containers for the devices must be in place.
- 2.1.4. Only devices (such as sterno cans) designed for use with chafing dishes shall be used.
- 2.1.5. A snuffing device designed for use with the chafing dish container shall be kept in close proximity to the serving area.
- 2.1.6. Extra fuel containers shall be kept at a location remote from the serving area.
- 2.1.7. Combustible materials or decorations shall not be used near the serving dishes.
- 2.1.8. A responsible person shall be identified to ensure the devices are completely extinguished at the end of the event prior to disposal. Devices shall not be disposed of until cool to touch.
- 2.1.9. The provisions of NFPA 1, Section 20.1.4.2 shall also apply.

3. Other Open Flame Devices and Pyrotechnics

3.1. No other open flame or pyrotechnic device shall be used without prior approval of the Howard County DFRS Fire Marshal's Section.

3.2. NFPA 1, Section 20.1.4.3 shall also apply.

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4. Penalties

- 4.1. Non compliance with the regulations set forth may result in a citation being issued.
Violations are a Class C offense.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Herr".

Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief