Policy Statement

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) estimates that candle fires in the U.S. are responsible for as many as 85 fatalities, 1000 injuries, and property losses of 120 million dollars per year. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has directly identified that the soaring use of candle popularity has led to a tripling of the number of candle fires in the U.S., from a low of 5,500 in 1990 to well over 15,000 each year now. It is true that most of these fires occurred in the home; however, any occupancy that allows lit candles has an increased chance of unexpected fire.

Applicable Campus:

University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campuses

Purpose

To establish a policy for prevention of fires due to candles on campus property.

Scope

The policy covers all campus departments and staff.

Procedures

In order to protect visitors, staff, and property, the risk associated with fires on the campuses must be kept to an absolute minimum. Open flames always have the potential to cause unwanted fires, and, while candles do have aesthetic appeal, they are not necessary to the mission of the university. As such:

It is the policy of the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus that the use of lit candles will not be allowed within any building.

We generally discourage having any non-lit candles on the campus, and we ask that the wicks be clipped if a candle is used for decoration. Please contact the campus Fire and Life Safety Officer for questions or concerns at 303 724-0293.
References:
- Campus Authority having Jurisdiction Policy