



# PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

### INFORMATION SHEET

Information Sheet#: 2016-001  
Date Issued: February 29, 2016  
Last Revision: February 29, 2016

Topic: **CANDLE AND FUEL BURNING DEVICE REQUIREMENTS**  
Reference #1: 2013 California Fire Code - Chapter 3 / Open Flame Requirements

**Note:** *This information is being provided by the Pasadena Fire Department as a summary of the 2013 California Fire Code (CFC) which is adopted by City Ordinance as Title 14.28.010 of the Pasadena Municipal Code. This information is intended to be used as a brief summary of the CFC to be used as a quick reference guide and is not all inclusive and does not supersede other adopted codes and regulations.*

#### **Candles**

- The use of candles in an occupancy or area classified as a Public Assembly requires a permit.
- The diameter of the candle holder base shall be at least one-half the height.
- If the candle holder base is less than one-half the height, it must be securely attached to a larger base in an approved manner.
- The use of legs is not permitted unless the holder is stable.
- The flame shall be enclosed with the following exceptions:
  - Openings on the side shall not be more than 3/8 inch in diameter.
  - Openings on the top shall not exceed 2.25 inches in diameter.
  - There shall be a minimum of two inches between the top of the flame and rim.
- The shade or chimney must be securely attached.
- Any base, attached display, shade or chimney must be of non-combustible materials.
- Candle holders shall be constructed to prevent the spilling of wax.
- A model or pictures, with dimensions clearly visible, must be submitted to the Fire Prevention Division for approval.
- Candles shall not be left unattended when lit.
- Floating and hand-held candles shall not be permitted.
- The use of candles may require a standby Fire Safety Officer.
- Permits are not required for battery operated simulated candles.

#### **Candles Used in Religious Ceremonies**

- Candles used in churches and similar places of worship shall be limited to areas out of reach by those not associated with the religious ceremony.
- Candelabras shall be secured in a fashion to prevent being tipped over.
- Candelabras shall be high enough that clothing cannot come in contact with lit candles.

- The use of candles may require a standby Fire Safety Officer.
- Permits are not required for battery operated simulated candles.
- Under no circumstances shall hand held open flame devices such as exposed candles be permitted for any purpose in any Assembly or other occupancy within the scope of California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1 regulations. Title 19 CCR 3.25(b).

### **Fuel Burning Appliances**

- The following requirements apply to devices and appliances used for warming food or beverages.
- Class I and Class II liquids are prohibited.
- There shall be no means to adjust the height of the flame.
- Liquid or solid fuel devices must self-extinguish when tipped over.
- Fuel canisters shall be securely contained within a holder or affixed so as to prevent being displaced or tipped over.
- Maximum canister volume is 8 FL OZ.
- All materials within six inches of the open flame device shall be non-combustible.
- The use of open flame devices may require a standby Fire Safety Officer.
- Fuel burning devices shall not be left unattended when lit.

**The Fire Chief or designee is authorized to halt the use of open flames or candles.**

Thank you for taking the time to review these requirements. Please keep in mind that individuals are responsible to obey all related codes and to check with the Fire Department to obtain all necessary permits and pay any fees. Applications for permits can be obtained from the Fire Prevention Division of the Pasadena Fire Department at the following Address:

Pasadena Fire Department – Fire Prevention Division  
175 N. Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 744-7049 • Fax (626) 396-8696