



## Topic: - What are the risks – Candles and Tea Lights

### Are you aware of the Fire that occurred in your area?

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February two appliances and an Officer responded to reports of a fire in a ground floor flat in Bilbrook.



The resident was thankfully out at the time with the cause of fire being as a result of Tea Lights left unattended

### Our Safety Tips

**Be Smart and protect yourself, your family and your home by following these top tips:-**

#### Candles

We all love using candles at home and they're also part of many religious and cultural celebrations, but they can be dangerous. Here is some advice to keep you safe.

- Put candles in a proper candlestick holder – the heavier it is at the bottom the better because it won't tip over
- Make sure the candle fits the holder tightly so it doesn't fall or get knocked over by accident
- Put candlestick holders on a flat, stable, heat-resistant surface
- Keep candles out of winds and draughts
- Keep candles clear of clothes, curtains, cushions, papers and other things that burn easily
- Always put them out properly before leaving the room – use a metal snuffer or wet your fingers and pinch the wick where the flame starts

#### You Should Never –

- Leave a lit candle alone – even for a few seconds
- Lean across a lit candle – you could set your hair or clothes on fire
- Place on soft furnishings (like cushions) or plastic (like TVs, baths that are made of plastic (acrylic). Even acrylic toilets can melt and cause a fire
- Put candles on shelves – they can heat up the shelf above and cause a fire
- Put them on top of heaters or in the middle of the mantelpiece. An unlit candle can melt in the heat below and catch fire
- Allow children to play with candles, lighters or matches
- Use them if you've been drinking alcohol or feel sleepy



### Tea-lights



Tea lights are cheap and small but are just as dangerous as other candles so treat them with the same caution.

Tea-lights come in their own little metal pots, which can get very hot. They can melt through plastic and have the potential to start a house fire.

Never leave a tea-light unattended even for a few seconds.

### Oil lamps

Oil lamps don't drip hot wax, but they do contain liquid that can catch fire

- Keep them away from other heat sources, like radiators and fire places
- Keep your spare oil in a proper bottle, away from heat and children
- Keep the wick properly trimmed
- Treat oil lamps as you would a lit candle

### Never -

- Leave a lit oil lamp alone
- Use a cracked or broken oil lamp
- Fill them too much

### Incense

Although there's no flame, the burning embers of incense sticks or cones get very hot and can start fires. Treat them the same way you would a lit candle. Never leave lit incense alone and always use a proper holder that catches the ash.

### Essential- oil burners

Most oil burners use tea-lights and should be treated the same as any other candle. Always follow the instructions. Never leave a lit essential oil burner alone or use a cracked or broken one and make sure you don't let the oil burn right down – the burner could crack and the tea-light fall out.

### What you can do to help

It's important that we do our best together to reduce the risks from fire in your homes. Please let us know if you think someone maybe vulnerable from fire.

Please give us a call and have a chat with your Community Safety Officers. Service is completely confidential.

**01785 898719 or email: - [wsdgpreventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:wsdgpreventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk)**

**In the event of an emergency get out, stay out and dial 999**