



# EL DORADO COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION STANDARD

## Candle and Open Flame Devices

STANDARD #E-001

EFFECTIVE 05-27-2009

### PURPOSE:

To allow the safe use of candles and open flame devices in commercial occupancies. According to NFPA, during 2005, an estimated 15,600 home structure fires were started by candles. These fires resulted in an estimated 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$539 million. Homes include dwellings, duplexes, manufactured housing and apartments.

### SCOPE:

To ensure the safe use of candles and open flame devices in commercial occupancies, such as in religious ceremonies, table decorations and theatrical performances.

### AUTHORITY:

The 2007 edition of the California Fire Code, Chapter 3.

### REQUIREMENTS:

Candles and open flame devices may be used in commercial occupancies as long as they adhere to these regulations as set forth in section 308 of the 2007 California Fire Code:

1. Class I and II flammable liquids or liquefied petroleum gas **may not be used** in any type of candle or open flame decorative device. Class III combustible liquids, i.e. lamp oil, may be approved for use.
2. Approved fuel containers shall be safely sealed for storage.
3. The devices or holder must be constructed to prevent spillage of liquid fuel or wax at a rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. Liquid or solid fueled lighting devices containing over 8 ounces of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than ¼ teaspoon per minute if tipped over.
5. The device or holder must be designed so that it will return to an upright position if tilted to a 45 degree angle. This is only if the candle does not self extinguish.
6. The flame must be enclosed with the following exceptions:

- a. Openings on the side of 3/8" or less.
  - b. Top openings that allow for a piece of tissue paper to be placed over the opening and not ignite in ten seconds
7. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials. Such chimneys shall be securely attached to the open-flame device. The chimney does not have to be attached to the open flame device if the device will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.
8. Shades, if used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open flame device holder or chimney.
9. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles must be securely fastened to prevent overturning. They must also not be placed near any drapes, curtains, or other combustible materials.
10. For religious ceremonies or theatrical performances, approval will be at the discretion of the Fire Chief. However, even with approval, at no time will the transfer of a lighted candle from one person to another be permitted.
11. Permits and standby fire watch may be required by the Fire Marshal for public assembly activities or other events such as theatrical performances where candles and other open-flame devices are to be used.

### **Flaming food and beverage preparation**

1. The dispensing of flammable or combustible liquids used in the preparation of flaming foods or beverages shall be dispensed from one of the following:
  - a. A 1-ounce unbreakable container, or
  - b. An unbreakable container not exceeding 1-quart capacity with a controlled-pouring device that will limit the flow to a 1-ounce serving.
2. Containers not in use shall be secured to prevent spillage when not in use.
3. The serving of flaming foods or beverages shall be done in a safe manner and shall not create high flames. The pouring, ladling or spooning of liquids is restricted to a maximum height of 8 inches above the receiving receptacle.
4. Flaming foods or beverages shall be prepared only in the immediate vicinity of the table being serviced. They shall not be transported or carried while burning.
5. The person preparing the flaming foods or beverages shall have a wet cloth towel immediately available for use in smothering the flames in the event of an emergency.