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Burleson Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) are urging residents to practice candle fire safety during the holiday season.

On average, the USFA says 42 home candle fires are reported every day. More than half start when something that could burn – furniture, mattresses, bedding, curtains or decorations – are too close to the candle. In 20 percent of those candle fires, the candles are left unattended. Approximately 36 percent of home candle fires start in the bedroom. Half of home candle fires start between midnight and 6 a.m. when residents are asleep.

The good news is that most candle fires are preventable. If possible, fire officials encourage families to avoid using lighted candles, and instead opt for flameless candle warmers. If you prefer candles, make sure the candles are placed inside sturdy holders; keep candles away from children and pets; extinguish candles after every use; and never leave burning candles unattended. Make sure all of your Christmas decorations are flame resistant or flame retardant and keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that could burn. Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.

Put new batteries in all smoke detectors twice a year, when the time changes. If there is a fire, get out of the house first, then call 911. Make sure your family has a home fire escape plan and that you practice it frequently. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room and designate a meeting place outside the home.

For more information on fire prevention or to schedule a tour of Fire Station #1 or a visit to your school, daycare or civic group, call Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton at 817-426-9174 or email ssingleton@burlesontx.com.