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Keep Your Homes Safe from Fires This Hurricane Season

WASHINGTON, DC (September 24, 2020) --- With summer ending and hurricane season approaching, the National Candle Association is reminding residents of important safety tips during a power outage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than 20% of candle fires involving fatalities occur during a loss of power.

While flashlights and battery-powered lamps are safe sources of light during lengthy power outages, candles are also reliable alternatives if used safely. What's more, with candle usage up due to the pandemic as more and more people access candles for their meditative and stress-relieving benefits, safety precautions are critical. "The unpredictability of this year has taught us the importance of implementing preventative safety measures," says Kathy LaVanier, president of the National Candle Association. "NCA is dedicated to providing consumers with knowledge and safety practices so they can continue to enjoy their candles at home."

Here are seven safety precautions from NCA to follow when the lights go out:

- **DO use pillar or container candles.** Broader-based candles are a suitable option for power outages, as these are less likely to be accidentally knocked over. When possible, candles should be enclosed within glass hurricane holders or globes.
- **DO pay attention to proximity.** It's important to make sure that you're not burning a candle on or near anything that could catch fire. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, or any other flammable objects. Place burning candles at least 3 inches apart from one another so they don't melt one another or burn improperly.
- **DON'T leave burning candles unattended.** Try to restrict people and candles to one room in the house so the location of family members can always be accounted for and you can keep an eye on open flames. Extinguish all candles before going to bed or leaving a room.

- **DO place candles on a fire-resistant surface.** Place a candle in its holder on a stable, nonflammable surface, such as a metal cookie sheet, frying pan or ceramic plate.
- **DON'T light a candle if you smell gas.** If you smell gas inside or outside your home, immediately put out all open flames, shut off your gas supply, leave the area, get to a safe place, and call 911.
- **DON'T use candles as a search guide or night light.** Avoid walking around with a candle. Dark rooms can increase the chance of tripping or brushing against a flammable item. Use a flashlight instead. Never leave a candle burning when you are sleeping!
- **DO keep candles out of reach of children and pets.** Place candles up high to avoid the risk of pets, children, or adults accidentally bumping candles over in the dark.

For a complete list of tips for safe candle use, check out [NCA's Candle Safety Rules](#). To learn more about fire safety, visit [NCA's Fire Safety Guidelines](#).

Complete, downloadable candle safety guidelines are available on the National Candle Association website: www.candles.org.

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National Candle Association (NCA) is the trade association representing U.S. candle manufacturers and their suppliers. It is widely recognized as the leading technical authority on candle manufacturing, science and safety. Visit www.candles.org.