Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and [12% of home candle fires occur in December](http://www.nfpa.org/research/reports-and-statistics/fire-causes/candles), the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

* Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
* Keep candles out of reach of children
* Make sure candles are on stable surfaces
* Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
* Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
* [Check and clean the chimney](http://www.csia.org/homeowner-resources/chimney_safety_overview.aspx) and fireplace area at least once a year