



USAG – FS/HAAF Safety Gram

Sustaining, Supporting, and Defending Safety Excellence



SG #15-04

December Safety

03 Dec 14

Beat the Beep: Replace Aging CO Alarms – They Don't Last Forever

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms have been required in nearly every residence since March of 2006. The life expectancy of carbon monoxide alarms is 5-7 years, depending on the alarm manufacturer. The life of a CO alarm begins once it is first powered up. Most CO alarms have a date of manufacture stamped on them, which can be used as a guide if the activation date was not recorded.



Candle Safety Tips

1. Burn candles within a one-foot circle, free of anything that can burn.
2. Before you go out, blow it out; never leave candles burning unattended
3. Always extinguish candles after use.
4. Use a non-combustible saucer or candleholder.
5. Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.



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During 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 10,630 home structure fires started by candles per year. These fires caused an annual average of 115 civilian deaths, 903 civilian fire injuries, and \$418 million in direct property damage. Candles caused 3% of the reported home fires, 4% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 6% of direct property damage during this period. On average, 29 home candle fires were reported per day. Unless otherwise specified, the home candle fire statistics that follow are based on the 2007-2011 time period.

Most Candle Fires Happen During the Winter Holidays

Increased candle use during the winter holidays leads to more candle fires at this time of year. Between 2009 and 2013, Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), November 29, and Halloween (Oct. 31), were the days of the year when the most candle fires occurred. Extra care should be taken to prevent candle fires during the holidays.

Manage The Risk – Protect The Force For additional information contact:

Your Unit Addition Duty Safety Officer (ADSO) or Collateral Duty Safety Person (CDSP), or

USAG Installation Safety Office: Fort Stewart Office @ 912-767-6541; Hunter Army Airfield Office @ 912-345-4901.