



**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2010

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Unattended Lit Candle Causes 3-Alarm Fire

The Houston Fire Department was dispatched to a fire at the downtown YMCA building at 1600 Louisiana Street just after 1:40 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. HFD arson investigators have determined the fire was caused by an unattended lit candle.

More than 150 HFD personnel responded to the fire that caused more than \$50,000 in estimated damage. The three alarm fire was tapped out about 2:20 p.m. All of the occupants safely evacuated the building and there were no reported injuries. The management for the YMCA reported having taken hi-rise fire safety training within the year and fire safety drills which aided in the safe evacuation.

Citizens always need to be cautious when using candles by following some simple safety tips:

- Never leave a candle burning and use them with only with constant adult supervision.
 - Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, paper or curtains.
 - Place candles in secure candle holder which are meant to be use for holding candles. Make sure candleholders are non-combustible and large enough to collect the dripping wax.
 - Place candleholders on a secure piece of furniture.
 - Do not place candles in windows where blinds or curtains can close over them.
 - Keep wicks trimmed to 1/4 inch and extinguish candles when they burn to within 2 inches of the holder.
 - Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids. Do not use candles in places where they can be knocked over by children or pets.
 - Always have a working smoke detector!
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Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

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