

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

# RULES FOR HANDHELD CANDLES DURING RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES

**Code Reference:**

California Fire Code (CFC), Article 1109.8.5

**NOTE:** The Fire Department highly discourages the use of handheld candles, because of the inherent danger with candles. Should you still decide to use candles, we recommend giving candles to a few designated individuals, presenting less opportunity for a fire incident to occur. The following safeguards shall be followed when using candles:

1. Candles shall be used with an approved holder, fitting in such a manner as to not allow dripping wax to escape through the opening at the bottom of the holder.
2. Lighted candles shall not be passed from one person to another at any time. Tipping an unlit candle to a lit one is the only acceptable method of lighting handheld candles.
3. Handheld lighted candles shall only be held by persons 16 years old or older.
4. Handheld candles shall be extinguished prior to moving from the spot of initial lighting. The extinguished candles shall be placed in an approved non-combustible container after use.
5. Please locate your closest fire extinguisher prior to the ceremony, in case a fire emergency occurs.

Thank you for keeping these safeguards in mind. We appreciate your concern for fire and health safety.